


Britannica Curiosa:

O R,

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

IsLAND of GREAT BRITAIN.



BRITANNICA
CURIOUS
A DESCRIPTION



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Britannica Curiosa:

O R,
A DESCRIPTION
OF THE MOST REMARKABLE
CURIOSITIES,
NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL,
OF THE
I S L A N D
O F
GREAT BRITAIN,

IN THE SEVERAL
COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, &c.
T H E
Principal SEATS of the NOBILITY and GENTRY,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PLACES of RESORT and
ENTERTAINMENT, &c. &c.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

THE SECOND EDITION.

Illustrated with Fifty-nine COPPER PLATES.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N:

Printed for FIELDING and WALKER, No. 20,
Paternoster-Row.

M DCC LXXVII.

BRITANNIA, ENGLAND

CURIOUS

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C U R I O S I T I E S,
N A T U R A L A N D A R T I F I C I A L,
O F T H E
I S L A N D
O F
G R E A T B R I T A I N.

H O M E C I R C U I T.
K E N T.

[*Canterbury Cathedral continued.*]

THE present state of the windows, is in the Gothic taste, with a multitude of lights or pannels of glass; the three lower rows of which are considerably large, and seven in a row: the middle one is almost all of coloured glass, the others of plain, except some escutcheons of arms in each pannel.

The coloured range has in its middle pannel, the arms of the church under a canopy, at present, but probably had once a crucifix, or something else as odious in the eyes of Culmer, for all the figures on each side are kneeling towards it, supposed to be Edward IV. and his family: the king is next
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the centre pannel to the west, in those behind him are Prince Edward and Richard Duke of York. On the east side is the Queen, in the next three princesses, and in the last, two others: all have crowns or coronets, except these two, one of which has a veil.

A screen of stone divides the martyrdom from a fine chapel of the Virgin Mary, now called the Dean's chapel, as several of our Deans have been buried there. It is an elegant piece of work, with a great deal of carved foliage at the east window, against which is an ornament of Dean Turner. There are several other ornaments here, and one of Dr. Bargrave, in an uncommon taste, his portrait being painted on copper in a beautiful frame of white marble, and just by this is a passage into the Chapter-house, through which strangers are usually led to have a sight of it.

In the Martyrdom, we see on our left hand, the monument of Alexander Chapman, D. D. and Prebendary, set up, Mr. *Somner* says, "by the wall, where sometimes stood an altar, called the Altar of the Martyrdom of St. Thomas, which, together with the place, Erasmus saw, and hath left it thus described, "there is to be seen an altar built of wood, consecrated to the Blessed Virgin, and remarkable in no other respect, but as it is a monument of antiquity, which upbraids the luxury of the present times. At the foot of this altar, the holy martyr is said to have bid his last farewell to the Blessed Virgin at the point of death."

At the corner, by this monument, are the stairs leading down to that part of the undercroft, called the French church: but before we leave the martyrdom, we may observe in a compartment against the west wall of it, the epitaph of the Rev. Mr. John Clerke, and in another on the south side, that of Mrs. Priscilla Fotherby, to which we shall add,
from

from Mr. *Somner*, that " In the year 1299, on September the 9th, Robert Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, celebrated the nuptial solemnities between King Edward of England and Margaret, sister to the King of France, in the entrance of the church towards the cloyster, near the door of the martyrdom of St. Thomas."*

The two leaves of the martyrdom door joined in one makes that which opens into the French church, " this (says *Somner*) being spacious and lightfome, hath for many years been the strangers church, a congregation for the most part of distressed exiles, grown so great, and yet daily multiplying, that the place, in a short time, is likely to prove a hive too little to contain such a swarm." These strangers fled hither from the cruelties of the inquisition in the Spanish Netherlands, in the reign of Edward VI. who received them kindly, and granted them protection. Queen Mary dispersed them; but when Queen Elizabeth re-established the protestant religion, England again became their asylum.

Between the altar and the chapel of the Holy Trinity, stands the Patriarchal, or metropolitical chair of grey marble, and in three places carved in pannels. The seat is solid from the pavement. In this the Archbishop, or his proxy, is placed with much ceremony, as soon after the election as may conveniently be, the members of the church in procession attending.

This solemnity is called his Inthronization, and puts his Grace in formal possession of the metropol-

* That marriages were usually celebrated at the church-door, appears from Chaucer's description of the Wife of Bath

" Husbands at the Church-door had the five."

litical dignity, with the authority and prospects thereto appertaining.

Formerly this was done with much more pomp and magnificence than it is at present. The king, the prince of the blood, with many others of the highest rank, both spiritual and temporal, being invited to it, and entertained in a manner little inferior to the royal banquet at a coronation, either in the plenty and variety of dainties, or quality of the noble persons who attended as the great officers; in right of manors, held of the Archbishopric by such tenures, and large and numerous retinues, to the performance of their respective meetings.

For example, The Duke of Buckingham, as Lord high Steward, came with a train of one hundred and forty horses, the day before Archbishop Warham's Inthronization, to view the palace, and see that nothing should be wanting to the magnificence of the approaching solemnity, as Mr. *Battely* tells us, who, in his appendix, gives us an account of the feast itself, with the variety and expence of the provisions.

But this was in the days of yore. I return to what is to be seen in our time.

Opposite to the stone chair we see the old altar-piece, now the lining of that to which it gave place about the year 1730.

It is handsomely adorned with painting and gilding, and of a design which some think more suitable to a Gothic cathedral than the new one.

The choir is thought to be the most spacious of any in the kingdom, being about one hundred and eighty feet in length, from the west door to the altar, and thirty in breadth, between the two side doors of it. The stalls for the dean and prebendaries are six on each side of the entrance: they
are

are of wainscot, divided by neat pillars and pilasters, fluted, with capitols of the Corinthian order, supporting arched canopies, and a front elegantly carved with crowns, sceptres, mitres, and rich foliage, with suitable frieze and cornice.

The wainscoting on each side, as far as to the archbishop's throne, in the same taste, though not so rich in its ornaments, appears to have been done at the time of the reformation,

The old monkish stalls having been taken down in 1704, along with some old pews, three handsome rows of seats, or pews, were erected in their room: this was executed in a very handsome manner, by Archbishop Tillotson, who gave the present throne. The whole is of wainscot; the canopy and its ornaments raised very high, on six fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, with proper imposts, and is said to have cost two hundred and forty-four pounds eight shillings and two pence.

Dr. John Grandore, one of the Prebendaries, who died in 1729, leaving three hundred pounds to be laid out on the church; it was resolved to lay out that money to build a new altar-piece. It is of the Corinthian order, very lofty and well executed.

The pall and pastoral staff delivered to the archbishop, at his inthronization, deserves a little description, to shew what extravagant authority the popes assumed on such occasions. The Pall, (so called from the word *Pallium*, a cloak) was at first a rich robe of state, peculiar to the imperial habit, till the emperors permitted the patriarchs the use of it. The fee for this habit was five thousand florins, (at four shillings and six-pence each) and twice that sum for the first fruits, which was paid to his holiness: this will appear as an extravagant price for such a bawble, but the reader's wonder will cease, when he is informed, it was declared to be taken from

taken from the body of St. Peter, (which, *to be sure*, enhanced its value;) and that the pope had decreed, none could enter into the office, or even assume the title of archbishop, without receiving this badge, and by which he bound himself by oath, at the reception of it, to be dependant and obedient to the commands of his holiness.

The Pastoral Staff on Archbishop Chicheley's monument, is as substantial as an halbert, as tall as the man, and has a cross at the top. This is quite different to that described by *Erasmus*, who says, the pastoral staff of St. Thomas à Becket, was covered over with a thin plate of silver, very light, plain, and no longer than to reach from the ground to the girdle.

The following are the forms in which these insignia were delivered to Archbishop Dean: "The staff with the cross, was put into his hands by a monk, commissioned by the prior and convent of Canterbury, with these words, 'Reverend father, I am sent to you from the sovereign prince of the world, who requires and commands you to undertake the government of his church, and to love and protect her; and in proof of my orders, I deliver you the standard of the king of heaven.'

"After this he received his pall by the hands of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, commissioned by the pope for that purpose. It was delivered to him in this form: 'To the honour of Almighty God, and the blessed Virgin Mary, the holy apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, our lord pope Alexander VI. the holy Roman church, and also of the holy church of Canterbury, committed to your charge, we give you, in the pall taken from the body of St. Peter, a full authority for the exercise of your archiepiscopal function, with the liberty of wearing this honourable distinction in your cathedral

dral upon certain days, mentioned in the apostolic bulls of privilege."

Having thus selected every thing we thought worthy of observation, we shall quit this ancient and venerable city, and proceed on our survey.

At Canterbury the road branches off several ways; to the north it leads to *Whitstable*, which has nothing remarkable in it, except its having increased greatly in its trade and business within these few years, and is now a kind of port to Canterbury.

The next road branches off to *Margate* in the isle of Thanet; we shall say a few words of this island in general before we proceed any farther; the most probable derivation seems to be from the British word *Tan*, a fire; because of the fires or lights kept on this island, to direct ships in dark weather; but Mr. *Lambard* thinks it takes its name from the Saxon, *Tanet Lond*, i. e. moist or watery; it is eight miles in length and four in breadth: its soil is chalky, and 'tis very fruitful in corn and grass; great quantities of garden seeds are likewise annually raised here, from whence the seed shops in London are supplied with their greatest stock. The following description Camden gives in commendation of the industry of the inhabitants in this island, especially those who live near Margate, Ramsgate, and Broad Stur, must not be omitted; namely, "that they are exceedingly industrious, and are, as it were, amphibious creatures, and get their living both by sea and land. They deal in both elements, are both fishers and ploughmen, both husbandmen and mariners; and the self-same hand that holds the plough, steers the ship. According to the several seasons, they make nets, fish for cod, herring, mackrel, &c. go to sea themselves, and export their own commodities. And those very men also dung their ground, plow, sow, harrow, and reap, being quick and active in both employments; and so the course of

their labours run round. And when there happens any shipwrecks, as there does here now-and-then (for those shallows and shelves so much dreaded by seamen lie over against it; namely, the Godwin, the Brakes, the Four-foot, the Whitdick, &c.) they are extremely industrious to save the lading."

This island cannot boast of many gentlemen's seats at present, though formerly it was the residence of several very ancient and eminent families; yet the farmers here are in general men of substantial estate, raised by their own industry, and live in a very handsome and creditable manner.

This was the first place given to the Saxons by the British King *Vortigern*, when he sent for their assistance against the Scots and Picts, and here it was the Danes began their ravages in England, and, who according to Camden ruined the nunnery built here by a lady, to whom Egbert, the eighth King of Kent, gave an estate here, not less than one third of the island, to appease her of an injury he had formerly done her.

At *Staner*, in this island, the *Rutupie* of the Romans, is to be seen the sepulchre of Vortimer, King of the ancient Britons, who having vanquished the Saxons in many battles, and at last driven them out of the island, ordered, before his death, that he should be buried here, on a fond conceit, that his corpse would fright them from landing any more upon this coast; like the great Scipio, who having subdued the Carthagians, ordered his tomb to be turned towards Africa, to fright them from the coast of Italy; but the poor Britons soon found the difference between a King in the field and one in the grave.

At Margate, which is seventy-two miles from London, the curious traveller will no doubt be detained some time, the harbour and pier, the conveniences for bathing, and the public rooms de-

serving

erving his attention, as does the walks under the cliff when the tide is out.

From Margate to Reculver, is a pleasant ride of ten miles, having a beautiful prospect of East Kent on one side, and an extensive view of the sea on the other.

There is nothing very remarkable to be seen at Reculver to those who delight in antiquities; the old church and the ruins of the ancient castle, may detain them a while, it having formerly been the seat of a Roman colony, and no doubt was very large and populous in ancient times; for the sea, having by degrees washed the soil away, hath discovered many old Roman coins and other antiquities, which have been collected here in prodigious numbers.

Lord Holland's buildings at *King'sgate* are deserving of a visit, as is the North Foreland light-house; a line drawn from this last place due north to the Naze in Essex, about six miles short of Harwich, makes the mouth of the river Thames; and all the towns and harbours from hence, whether on the Kentish or Essex shore, are called members of the port of London. As soon as vessels pass this Foreland from thence, they are probably said to be in the open sea; if to the north, they enter into the German ocean; if to the south, the English channel.

Not far from here is *Ramsgate*, a small port; the inhabitants are fond of having us call it Roman gate; pretending, that the Romans under Julius Cæsar, made their first attempt to land here, and that being driven back by a storm, he soon returned, and coming on shore with a good body of troops, beat back the Britains, and fortified his camp, just at the entrance of the creek where the town now stands, while others assert, that that great commander first landed at Deal.

In

In the twenty-second year of his late majesty King George the Second, an act of parliament passed, appointing trustees for enlarging and maintaining this harbour, and a duty on shipping was granted for those purposes.

The work was accordingly began, and for some time carried on with great vigour, and a very noble stone pier was carried out from the shore on the east side of the proposed harbour, to the distance of seven hundred and seventy feet; this pier, so far as finished, is perhaps the most complete piece of architecture in the world, and it is to be regretted that the confusion and altercations in the house of lords and the house of commons concerning the expence of it, prevented it from being compleated; should the traveller make the King's-Head the inn he stops at in this town, he will have a near view of this new harbour just under him; and for distant ones, the Downs, the French coast, the South Foreland Cliffs, Sandwich, Deal, and that part of East Kent, and some of the highest towers of Dover Castle may be discovered with a good glass.

About six miles from Ramsgate and sixty-seven from London, is *Sandwich*, anciently called *Sandwīc*, i. e. the Sandy Town. This town was formerly of great repute and trade, and is one of the cinque ports; it was a great sufferer by the ravages of the Danes, and in 1015, *Canute*, after having been beaten in Lincolnshire, arrived here, and acted an inhuman tragedy upon King *Ethelred*'s friends and hostages, slitting the noses of some, cutting off the hands of others, besides acting many other scenes of wanton cruelty before he left them, and returned to Denmark; but when he landed here again, and obtained the kingdom of England, he finished the buildings of this town which his father had begun, and granted it a charter with many privileges; the barons met

Lewis

Lewis here in 1216, and when they left it, King John reduced the town to ashes.

That this town has been very famous formerly, is indubitable, as in King Edward the Fourth's reign it had ninety-five ships belonging to it, and yielded the crown between sixteen and seventeen thousand pounds *per Annum*, in its customs, and above one thousand five hundred sailers. In Queen Elizabeth's time, money was levied for mending the haven, and in 1573, the Queen came in person to this town, was entertained by the Mayor and Jurats wives, in the free-school, with one hundred and sixty dishes of meat, and had likewise a gold cup of one hundred pounds value, presented to her.

This haven was by degrees choaked up with the sand, and soon after fell into a state of decay, and had done so much sooner, but it was partly supported by the industrious and ingenious Walloons, who were drove hither by the persecutions of the Duke of Alva, from the low countries; these diligent and active people settled a manufactory of flannel, or haize at this town; they also set up the silk looms at Canterbury, where they still subsist; and likewise introduced the making of thread at Maidstone. It is also said, they here set up the first of any in England public gardening, sowing Canary seeds, &c. and by that means kept the town from running to ruin, and indeed the land being light, sandy and fresh, is very good for producing most sorts of seeds, and the ground being pretty low, the plants, when they sprout, do not so often receive a blight as in other places, and Sandwich carrots are esteemed the sweetest and the largest which are produced in England, or perhaps in Europe.

Here are three Churches, three Hospitals, a Custom-house, a Quay, and a Free-school, built out of the ruins of the Carmelites monastery, by Sir Ro-

ger Manwood, who was Lord Chief Baron, where is an endowment for sending off every year two scholars to Lincoln college, Oxford. Its corporation goes by the name of the Mayor, Jurats and Commonalty, and the Mayor of Sandwich carries a black knotted staff, whereas the mayor of the other ports wear usually white staves.

About half an hour's walk from Sandwich, are the ruins of

Richborough Castle, which is a very noble remain of Roman antiquity. Its figure was quadrilateral, about one hundred and fifty paces in length, and five broad, the walls on three sides are pretty entire, about twelve foot thick, and in some places about twenty-five or thirty feet high, without any ditch. They are composed of chalk-stones, round pebbles, and Roman bricks. The side next the sea, being upon a kind of cliff, the top of the wall is but level with the ground. Here in the latter times of the empire, the *Legio II. Aug.* was quartered, and within this castle was one of the five Kentish watch towers, to spy out and to defend against the approaches of the Saxon pirates. At the foot of it runs the river, coming from Canterbury, which at first discharges itself into the sea, by Ebbesfleet, north of Staines, till the sand pouring upon it, obliged the stream to slide under the cliff of Richborough castle, and so by Sandwich. Here was formerly a very eminent harbour, of which at present there are no remains, and hither the Romans resorted for the most delicious oysters. Near this place, in the way to Sandwich, upon an eminence, is the remainder of an amphitheatre, made of turf, probably for the exercise and diversion of the garrison. Before Sandwich gates are two Roman *Tumuli*, on one of which stands a wind-mill, and on the sea-shore are six large and broad *Celtic Tumuli*.

Tumuli, at equal distances. This flat coast is fenced against the Ocean by the Sand Downs.

About five miles from Sandwich, and seventy-two from London, is

Deal, called by Cæsar *Dola*, to express its low situation. At this place, or near it, Julius Cæsar landed in both his expeditions into Britain, and here, in 1495, landed that impostor Perkin Warbeck, with his forces, against King Henry VII.

Deal is a member of the town and Port of Sandwich, and for its protection, Henry the VIIIth not only built a castle here, but also two others, one on the north, called Sandown castle, and another on the south, called Walmar castle, that monarch having been apprehensive of an invasion hereabout, after he had shaken off the pope's yoke, and provoked the Emperor by the divorce of Queen Catherine.

Sandown castle is composed of lunettes of very thick arched work of stone, with many port holes for great guns. In the middle is a great round tower, with a cistern at top; and underneath, an arch cavern, bomb-proof. A foss encompasses the whole, to which is a passage over a draw-bridge.

There are, as it were, two towns in Deal, the upper and more antient, and the lower, or larger, which lies on the edge of the sea, and has been much improved; the great resort of sea-men from the ships in the Downs, and the great conveniency of landing here has been of infinite benefit to the place, so that it is large and populous, adorned with many fair buildings, being in fact, the principal place upon the Downs, carries on a considerable trade, and has partly eclipsed Sandwich, which was formerly a great place of note and commerce.

Near it is the famous road for shipping, so well known all over the trading world, by the name of the Downs, which would be a very wild and dangerous

gerous road for ships, were it not for the South Foreland : an head of land forming the east point of the Kentish shore ; and is called the South, as its situation respects the North-Foreland ; and which breaks the sea off, which would otherwise come rolling up from the west, to the flats, or bank of sands, called the Godwin, which, for three leagues to gether, and at about a league, or a league and a half distance, run parallel with the shore, and are dry at low water ; so that these two, breaking all the force of the sea on the east, south, and south-west, make the Downs accounted a very good road.

And yet, on some particular winds, and especially if they over-blow, the Downs prove such a wild road, that ships are driven from their anchors, and often run on shore, or are forced on the Godwin Sands, or into Sandwich Bay, or Ramsgate-Pier, in great distress : this is particularly when the wind blows hard at south-east, or at east-by-north, or east-north-east, and some other points, and terrible havock has been made in the Downs at such times.

But the most unhappy instance that can be given of any disaster in the Downs, was in the time of that terrible tempest, which we call, by way of distinction, *the great Storm, November 23, 1703*. Unhappy in particular, for that there chanced to be at that time, a great part of the Royal navy come into the Downs, in their way to Chatham, to be laid up.

Five of the biggest ships had the good fortune to push through the Downs the day before, finding the wind blew then very hard, and were come to an anchor at the Gunfleet ; and had they had but one fair day more, they had been all safe at the Nore, or in the river Medway, at Black-stakes.

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There remained in the Downs about twelve sail, when this terrible tempest began, at which time England may be said to have received the greatest loss that ever happened to the royal navy at one time, either by weather, by enemies, or by any accident whatsoever. The short account of it is as follows:

The Northumberland, a third rate, carrying seventy guns, and seven hundred and fifty-three men; the Restoration, a second rate, carrying seventy-six guns, three hundred and eighty-six men; the Stirling-Castle, a second rate, carrying eighty guns and four hundred men, but had only three hundred and forty-nine men on board; and the Mary, a third rate, of sixty-four guns, having two hundred and seventy-three men on board; these were all lost, with all their men, except one man out of the Mary, and seventy out of the Stirling-Castle, who were taken up by boats from Deal.

All this, besides the loss of merchants ships, which was exceeding great, not here only, but in almost all the ports in the south and west of England, and also in Ireland, happened by the above storm.

“ From Deal to Dover, (says a modern author) I should chuse to travel in the afternoon. The country, as we rise towards the castle, grows hilly, and now and then gives a view of the French cliffs, which we usually see plainer as the sun gets more to the west, but the most surprizing view is at a hollow way, a little before we get sight of the castle gate: here I would advise those who travel in carriages to alight and walk before them, for presently after we are in this cut, we find ourselves on the top of a hill, so high and so steep, as without this precaution, is quite shocking to many, but the beautiful change of scene is quite amazing. After travelling miles over bleak and barren hills, we see under us a beautiful valley,

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thick set with villages and water-mills, and a river emptying itself into the sea, at Dover harbour, of which, and the town, this height gives quite a bird's eye view. This pleasure is lost to those who go from Deal to Dover, as in rising to the top of these heights, they turn their backs to this romantic prospect, and lose great part of the beauty of the whole."

The direct road from London to Dover is by Canterbury, from which city, we travel by the side of the river over Barham Downs, where the Roman Watling-street is very perfect. Here we see the ground posted off for horse-racing, with a handsome building near the starting-post, compleated in 1774, for the reception of a great deal of company, with offices underneath for their refreshment.

On the left-hand of the Downs, at the lower side, are several handsome villages and elegant seats, there are others to the right, but we see only the painted gates and pallisades, leading to them, except one, which was lately built, and called Higham.

At the foot of the hill, after we have left the Downs, is the village of *Bridge*, where we cross a river, by some called the Little Stour, it rises from a spring at Bishopsbourne, (the next parish) and is sometimes almost dry, at other uncertain times a flood comes down from springs about Eltham, with great rapidity, till interrupted by what the neighbours call Swallows, where it sinks into the earth, till that is saturated, and then rushes on again, to the next interruption of the same kind. So that a stranger might be amazed at walking near this river side, and down the stream, till he has lost it, and finds the channel dry. The country hereabouts is inclosed for fields and hop-grounds.

Dover,

Dover, about seventy-one miles from the metropolis, the ancient *Dubris*, and supposed to have taken its name from the British *Dwy*, which signifies *two*, and *Bre*, or *Bryu*, (hence our brink) a hill, as designed to express its situation; others think it derived from *Dwyfrba*, high or steep; it was incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of *Dover*, (and before that by the name of the barons of the town and port of *Dover*) in the reign of King Edward the Third; it was formerly very eminent, and had seven churches in the town, five of which are demolished; that of St. Martin was collegiate, founded by *Wighted*, King of Kent, and is a very venerable ruin; it was built in the form of a cross, and, it was this monastery that first promoted the town's being incorporated; there are large remains of this priory, now a farm house; the hospital over against it is made a storehouse, where the knights templers lodged as they came into and went out of the kingdom.

Dover was without doubt a port in the time of the Romans, as appears by the Itinerary of *Antoninus*, and hath continued so to this day.

When *Lewis*, the French King in 1180 came on a pilgrimage to the tomb of that Rebel Thomas à Becket, he most wisely besought the saint, that no one for the future might ever be cast away in his passage between Wit-sand and *Dover*; but notwithstanding *Lewis*'s great esteem and intercession for Wit-sand, Calais has succeeded it, and still continues the usual and most frequented port.

This town was once well walled and had ten or eleven gates; it is said to have been the work of the Emperor *Severus*.

This town has, like others, met with many ill accidents, the most remarkable of which we shall particularize. In the year 1051, *Eustace*, Earl of Boloign, and father to *Godfrey*, having been to
mak^o

make a visit to Edward the Confessor, whose sister he had married, returning this way home, had here an harbinger killed, by one whom he would have forced to afford him lodgings; this enraging the Earl, he entered the house with his retinue, and slew the host and eighteen more; the town being provoked at this murder, attacked the Earl and his servants, killed twenty-one of them, and the Earl himself escaped with much difficulty. The earl complained to the King, and it had like to have been the occasion of a civil war.

In 1191, *Longchamp*, the insolent bishop of Ely, who was guardian of the realm in the absence of King Richard I. while that King was infatuated with the whim of sanctering to Jerusalem to recover the Holy Land, that prelate, whose retinue was usually one thousand or fifteen hundred persons, had got himself so mortally hated by both clergy and laity, that they stript him of all his great places and castles, and after taking him prisoner, confined him in the castle, after having first decently stripped him of what they knew would be useless to him in that dark place.

In Edward the First's reign, while the two cardinals were here treating between England and France, the French landed and burnt a good part of the town, but the inhabitants raised a Posse, beat the French back to their ships with great courage and bravery, and killed about eight hundred of them.

In 1416, the Emperor *Sigismund*, cousin German to Henry V. landed here, with a design to make peace between him and the French King, but before he landed, the Duke of Gloucester and others went into the sea with their swords drawn, and declared, if he came hither as emperor, or to claim any authority, or any otherwise, than as the King's friend
and

and relation, he should not be permitted to land. This was done to assert the King's prerogative.

Dover Castle stands on a steep hill eastward of, and overlooking the town of Dover, which hill towards the sea terminates in a high and almost perpendicular chalky cliff, variegated with samphire and chequered with a horizontal strata of black flints, and is the western extremity of that ridge, which commencing near Deal, forms the South Foreland. It was once so well fortified, and of such importance as to be styled the lock and key of the kingdom.

Speaking of the foundation of this fortress, Camden says, "The common people dream of its being built by Julius Cæsar, and conclude it was really first built by the Romans, from those British bricks in the chapel which they used in the larger sort of building; here are a number of those great arrows which seemed to have been part of their armour which they used to shoot from engines like cross bows, and which are shewn in the castle as miracles. William the First, when he had an eye upon the kingdom, took an oath of Harold, that he should deliver into his hands this castle with the well, which is sixty fathoms deep, and said to be the work of Julius Cæsar; and that king immediately after the battle of Hastings, marched along the sea-coast to take possession of this castle, which for a short time made a shew of resistance; but on his near approach surrendered at discretion, when to intimidate the commanders of other strong holds, he caused both the governor and his lieutenant to be beheaded; and after he had remained here about eight days, he ordered additions and fortifications to be made, and then marched directly for London, leaving behind him a strong garrison, and the sick and wounded of his army.

When we view this castle from the north, it exhibits an amazing assemblage of embattled walls, towers,

towers, dykes and mounds, constructed for its defence, and greatly increased during the preceding and last war, by the addition of several batteries, on which cannon are mounted; these occupy near thirty acres of ground. From the south side of the castle where the cliff measures three hundred and twenty feet in height, the coast of France and the church of Calais are plainly visible to the naked eye; and its high situation was deemed a proper spot by the Romans, for the erection of a Pharos or watch-tower, the remains of which are still to be seen, at the west end of a ruined church, said to have been founded by King Lucius.

The buildings have several times fallen into decay, and at different periods undergone several repairs. In 1406, in the reign of Henry IV. the towers and other ruined walls of the castle were restored. King Edward IV. expended ten thousand pounds thereon, and Queen Elizabeth not only bestowed several considerable sums out of her privy purse on its reparation, but also applied part of the money raised by act of parliament, for the cleansing and deepning the harbour.

The mote or mote's bulwark, called the Pier, which stands on the beach close under the cliff, and beneath the southern end of the west wall of the castle was built by King Henry VIII. about the year 1539, for the convenience of ships to ride here with safety, and has been attended with great expence to make it answer the intended purpose. Here the new constable of the castle is sworn.

Travellers visiting this place, were formerly shewn the arms mentioned by Camden; great casks of wine, as thick as treacle through age; petrified salt: two very old keys and a brass horn, deemed ensigns of the authority of the constable; likewise a brass gun, twenty-two feet long, as appears by an inscription on the breech, by *Jan Talbuys*

Tolbuys, of Urretcht, 1544, and ludicrously stiled, Queen Elizabeth's Pocket-pistol; it requires fifteen pounds of powder, and is said to carry a ball seven miles.

Those who visit this place must be struck with the tremendous view of the sea and objects beneath, from the craggy and lofty rocks on which the castle stands; a prospect so noble and dreadful required the pen of so able a genius as *Shakespeare* to describe, which he has done in a most beautiful and masterly manner, as strikes the mind with the best idea that words can give, we shall therefore take the passage as it is written in his admirable play of *King Lear*.

Come on, fir,—here's the place — stand still.

How fearful

And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows and chows, that wing the midway air,
Shew scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down
Hangs one, that gathers samphire; dreadful trade!
Methinks, he seems no bigger than his head.
The fisher-men, that walk upon the beach,
Appear like mice; and yond tall anchoring bark,
Diminish'd to her cock; her cock, a buoy
Almost too small for sight. The murm'ring surge,
That on th' unnumbered idle pebbles chafes,
Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight,
Topple down headlong.

And in another place he saith,

From the dread summit of this chalky bourn!
Look up a-height, the shrill-gorg'd lark so far
Cannot be seen or heard: do but look.

In

In the direct road from Canterbury to Dover, is *Barfreston*, noted for its small and ancient Church, but most curiously adorned on the out-side with carved work in stone, with circular arches and windows. Within-side is also a fine arch, and the whole has a very antique and grand appearance.

At Bifron's is a House of the Rev. Mr. Taylor. The collection of pictures belonging to that gentleman, is thus described by Mr. Young, in his Tour through the East of England.

Salvator Rosa. Two Landscapes. The tree to the right, and the opposite mountains, good; and the group of figures picturesque: Neither of them quite so wild as common with this painter.

Pouffin. Large Landscape. Very fine: the figures well done.

Ditto. A smaller ditto. Excellent: the harmony of this piece striking; the keeping uncommonly fine, and the figures have an elegance and a chastity not often seen.

Ditto. Its companion. Fine.

Vanderveld. Shipping. Very fine.

Old Palma. The Marys in the Sepulchre with the Dead Body: Exceedingly fine. The group—the expression of the countenances, and the variety of the colours, without any glare; highly pleasing, there is an harmony in it striking.

Unknown. Medea, with the Insignia of Enchantment; a large Dog; and some Cattle: an odd Wild Piece, but very fine: there is an expression in it that shews the hand of a master; her figure is in strong relief, though a most unmeaning attitude; the dog is very well done.

Ditto. Holy Family. Fine.

Rubens. A large picture of several figures. Fine.

Mr. Bamfield. A Landscape. Very pleasing.

Those

Those who travel from Dover to Folkestone pass six or seven very romantic miles, over hills, almost like those they left at Dover; the road runs along the edge of vast precipices, the shore very high and nobly varied, from whence you look down on a fine sweep of inclosures, mostly grass, making a glorious view, with the town and its church, on a point of land, close to the sea. In short, the eye of the traveller is delighted with a most noble prospect of land and sea, and the hills of France terminating the prospect.

Should the traveller take the opportunity of the tide to pass under the cliffs of Dover, he will be struck with a most tremendous height over his head: and about two or three miles from the castle, he will observe a spring of fresh water running from the side of the precipice; though in those spots, where it is not too steep for grass to grow, he will find little patches of green sward, where rabbits can live, and one would think safe enough, but in this country are some keen and able sportsmen, distinguished as good cliff-runners, who walking at the brink of the precipice, if they can shoot a bird or a rabbit, mark where it falls, and if practicable, will get it by sliding down with their back to the rock to places where their heels will stop them, till they have got their game, and with which they proceed in the same manner to the bottom, and walk home by the sea-side. But if this method cannot be taken, they make use of a long rope, let down from the top, as the gatherers of samphire do in their dreadful trade.

Folkestone, seventy-two miles from London, was formerly a town of considerable note, and like others near the sea-coast, has been subject to several misfortunes. It is a member of the Cinque Port of Dover, and had a castle, formerly built by
D Eadbald,

Eadbald, King of Kent, and about 1068, a new fort was built on its ruins. A nunnery was also founded here by the daughter of that King, and upon a hill, now called *Castle Hill*, was a watch tower.

It hath been observed, that some of the hills in the neighbourhood of this town, have visibly sunk and grown lower within the memory of man, and that many Roman bricks and coins have been found here, which proves it to have been a place of note in the time of the Romans : at present it is principally noted for a multitude of fishing-boats belonging to it, employed in the catching of mackarel. The number, according to Mr. *Gosling*, amounts to thirty-two, which carry from fourteen to sixteen score of netting each. " The person, (says he) who gave me this information, was surprized, when I observed, at this rate, their netting would more than reach from Folkestone to Oxford, (for they reckon each score a quarter of a mile) but on a very short recollection he allowed it to be so."

Folkestone formerly had five Churches. It is incorporated by the name of a Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty. Its hilly situation renders it hardly safe to ride through the streets, and two pieces of old wall, apparently Roman, hang frightfully over the cliff.

The Town of Hythe is not far distant from Folkestone; yet in order to render our survey correct and regular, we must return to the north-west border of the county, and take the direct road that leads from London to that town.

Therefore beginning at New Cross, the first town worthy of remark, is

Eltham, which was formerly noted for a Royal Palace, built by Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, and Patriarch of Jerusalem; and by him given

given to Queen Eleanor, wife to Edward the first. It was afterwards greatly improved by his successors, and Henry III. kept a very grand Christmas here, according to the customs of those times. It was, no doubt, a very grand house, agreeably situated, and moated round ; though it has since been used as a barn.

Edward the Second resided here with his Queen, who was delivered of a son, called John of Eltham, created Earl of Cornwall. John King of France, who was taken prisoner, with his son Philip, at the battle of Poitiers, was sumptuously entertained here by Edward the Third. Edward IV. repaired and beautified the palace, kept his Christmas here, and gave to two thousand people a dole every day. Queen Elizabeth, who was born at Greenwich, was often brought here by her nurses, for the sake of the wholesome air of this agreeable place.

Though little signs of the palace are remaining, it hath many very handsome houses, and rich families who reside here, and occasions a great deal of company to resort here.

A little beyond Eltham is a very handsome seat, belonging to Sir John Shaw, Bart.

At *Kingsdown* near Farmlingham, the road branches off to Wye, West-Malling and Maidstone ; the first stands on the river Stour, where it has a bridge and a harbour for barges. It has been for a long time a place of good account. It was anciently a royal manor, which William the Conqueror gave to Battel Abbey. Lady Thornhill left two thousand five hundred pounds, for erecting and endowing a Charity-school here. Its Church had a lofty steeple, which was burnt by lightning down to the stone work or tower, which likewise fell of itself afterwards, and beat down the greatest part of the church, which has since been rebuilt.

In

In the road to Wye, is the town of *Lenham*, where, according to the continuation of *Camden*, the following remarkable circumstance occurred: "At *Lenham*, (says he) is a thing exceeding remarkable, mentioned on the tomb of *Robert Thompson, Esq.* in the church there, who was grand-child to that truly religious matron, *Mary Honeywood*, wife of *Robert Honeywood*, of *Charing, Esq.* She had at her decease, lawfully descended from her, three hundred and sixty-seven children; sixteen of her own body; a hundred and fourteen grand-children; two hundred and twenty-eight in the third generation, and nine in the fourth. Her renown liveth with her posterity, her body lieth in the church: and her monument may be seen in *Marks Hall*, in *Essex*, where she died.

About three miles north of *Wye*, by the river *Stour*, is

Chatham Castle, which is a place of great antiquity, *Camden* says, "It is a current opinion among the inhabitants, that *Julius Cæsar* encamped here, in his second expedition against the *Britons*, and from thence it was called *Jultham*, as if one should say, *Julius's station*, or house; and if I mistake not they have truth on their side; for *Cæsar* himself tells us, that after he had marched by night twelve miles from the shore, he first encountered the *Britons* upon a river; and after he had beat them into the woods, that he encamped there; where the *Britons* having cut down a number of trees, were posted in a place wonderfully fortified both by nature and art. Now this place is exactly twelve miles from the sea-coast, nor is there another river between, so that of necessity, his first march must have been hither, where he kept his men encamped, for ten days, till he had refitted his fleet, (which had been shattered very
much

much by a storm), and got it to the shore. Below this town is a green barrow, said to be the burying-place of one Jul-Laber, many ages since, who some will tell you, was a giant, others a witch. For my own part, imagining all along that there might be something of real antiquity couched under that name, I am almost persuaded that Laberius Durus, the tribune slain by the Britons, in their march from the camp we spoke of, was buried here, and that from him the Barrow was called Jul-Laber."

At present only the keep of this castle remains, which is evidently of Norman construction. It is an octagon, with a square building, containing a stair case adjoining to the east side. The ground-floor is used for a brew-house. The first story from the ground is converted into a kitchen and other offices. On the second floor is an octagon-room, handsomely fitted up, having two sash-windows in it, and a fire place; the chimney-piece seems pretty ancient, some of the bricks in the chimney are set herring-bone fashion. From hence the stairs lead to a platform covered with lead, where there is a delightful prospect. On the west side is another building, running from north to south, used for some of the out-offices of the house; on this side are the traces of a deep ditch. It is now in the possession of *Robert Colbrook, Esq.*

Meidstone is said to derive its name from the Saxon *Medwegeston*, or the town upon the Medway; this town is seated about thirty-six miles from London, and is very ancient; it has a bridge over the river Medway, navigable up to it by large hoys of fifty or sixty tons burthen, the tide flowing quite up to the town.

When the industrious *Walloons* set up the silk trade, (as mentioned before in our account of Canterbury) some of them settled in this part, and established a manufacture for linen thread, which has
since

since been carried on with great spirit. In this neighbourhood are great plantations of hops, which were supposed to be first planted here at the beginning of the reformation, which occasioned the following distich:

Hops, Reformation, Bays and Beer,
Came into England all in a year.

Here is a very good market on Thursdays, and esteemed not inferior to any in the county; and this town and the neighbouring parts supply London with more particulars than any other market-town in England; viz. Large Kentish bullocks from the Weald of Kent, which begins about six miles off; great quantities of the largest timber for the supply of the King's yards at Chatham, &c. They send also great quantities of corn, hops, apples and cherries, to London; a kind of paving stone called Kentish rags, exceeding durable, used to pave court-yards, &c. besides a fine white sand for the glass-houses, esteemed the best in England for melting into flint-glass and looking-glass plates, and for the stationers use also, who call it writing-sand.

There is a large paper-mill erected in this neighbourhood, where the best English writing-paper is made, which is equal in goodness to any brought from Holland.

A considerable clothing trade was once carried on at Cranbrook, Tenterden, Goadhurst, and other villages hereabouts; and the *Yeomen of Kent*, of whom so much has been said by fame, and who inhabited these parts, were generally much enriched by it; but that trade is now quite decayed, and scarce any clothiers left in all the county.

The farmers and descendants of these clothiers, upon the election for members for the county, shew themselves still there; for there are ordinarily four-
teen

teen or fifteen hundred freeholders brought from this side of the county, who, for the plainness of their appearance are called the *grey coats of Kent*; but are so considerable, that whoever they vote for is sure to carry the election.

This part of the county is bespangled with populous villages, and a number of elegant and delightful seats of the nobility and gentry.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has a palace here, esteemed very ancient, to which there is a chapel belonging. The architecture is Gothic, but good of the kind, and some parts have been repaired in the modern taste. It was founded by *John Ufford*, and finished by *Simon Islip*. The college or hospital was erected by Archbishop *Boniface*, and a charity by *Thomas Arundel*, now the free-school. About the year 1720, several canoes were dug up, made of hollowed trees, in the marshes of the river Medway above Maidstone. In the lands of D. Dodd at Addington, near Malling, in the year 1720, a British coin of amber was found in the foundation of a stone wall; the convex side was plain: on the concave was a British horse, rude enough.

Charing, not far off, was the ancient *Dufolenum*, situated upon a spring of the river Len. Here the Archbishops of Canterbury had a castellated palace given them by some of the first Saxon Kings, of which there is large ruins.

Mereworth Castle, two miles south-east of Malling, is a fine piece of architecture, designed by *Colin Campbell*, in imitation of an house in Italy, built by the famous *Palladio*. After the death of the Earl of Westmoreland, this seat devolved to Sir *Francis Dashwood*, Bart. with the title of Lord le Despencer. It is a square, extending eighty-eight feet, and has four porticos of the Ionic order. In the middle there rises above the roof a semicircular dome,

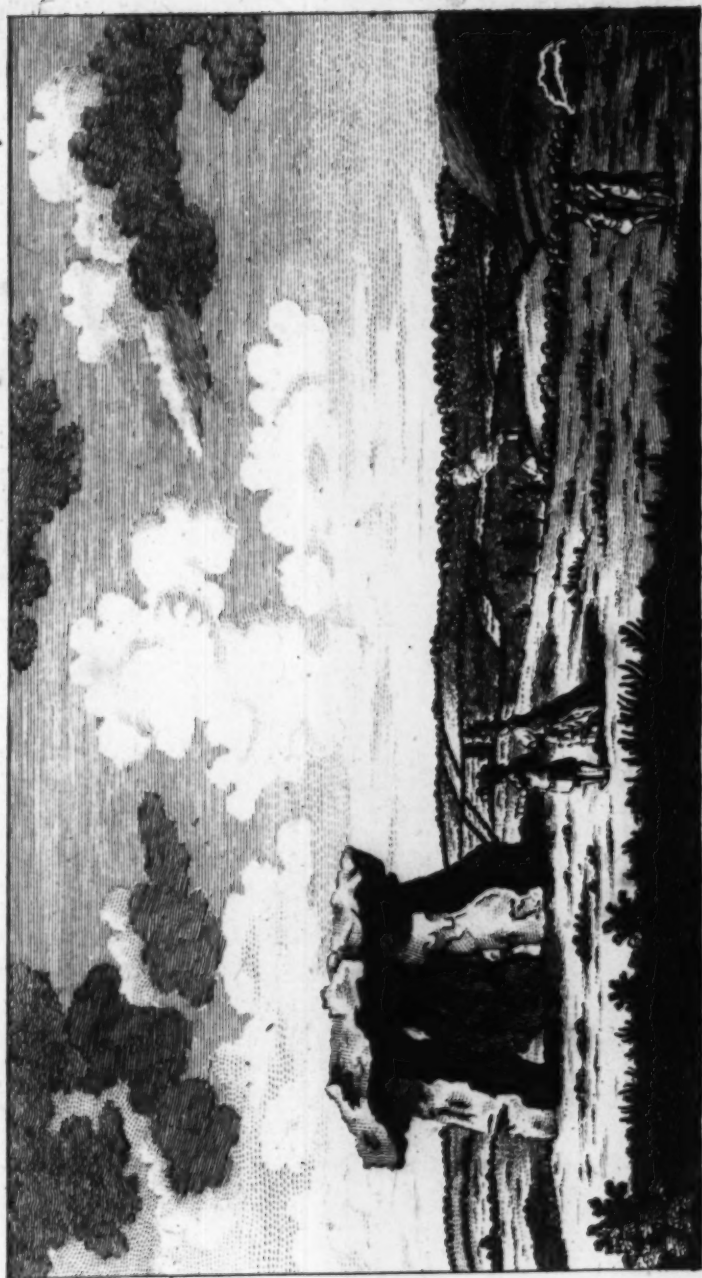
dome, which has two shells; the one forms the stucco ceiling of the saloon, being thirty-six feet in diameter; the outward shell is carpentry, covered with lead; between these two shells is a strong brick arch, that brings twenty-four funnels to the lantern, which is finished with copper; but by this contrivance, the misfortune is that the chimnies smoke.

Kets Coity-House. This is one of those ancient sepulchral monuments so frequently to be found all over these kingdoms, but more particularly in Wales and the county of Cornwall; indeed, they are not peculiar to the Britons, but common to all the northern nations. In the antiquities of Sweden and Norway, many of them are there represented, and several are said to remain in Denmark; nor were they confined to these countries only, there being one of them in Minorca, which is engraved in Armstrong's history of that island.

It stands on the side of a hill, a mile and a half east of Aylesford, and a quarter of a mile to the westward of the great road leading from Rochester to Maidstone, and was erected over the grave of *Catigern*, brother to *Gourtimer*, or *Vortimer*, Prince of the Britons, who was slain, in a battle fought with the Saxons, near Aylesford, in the year 455, in which house one of the Saxon generals likewise fell, and was buried at a neighbouring place, probably from him since called Horsted.

Perhaps the appellation of *Kets Coity House* may be thus illustrated; Ket or Cat is possibly the familiar abbreviation of *Catigern*; and in Cornwall, where there are many of these monuments, those stones, whose length and breadth greatly exceed their thickness, are called Coits. *Kits-Coity-House* may then express *Catigern-House* built with Coits, and might have been a taunting reflection on the sepulchre of that champion for the British liberty,

used



Nice's Coity House Kent.



anciently to have contributed towards the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge."

Philpot says, it was built by some of that family, and was esteemed anciently a place of strength; but doth not carry its age higher than Richard the First, at which time Roger de Leibourn was one of the Kentish knights who accompanied that King to the Holy Land, and served at the siege of Acon in Palestine.

Very little of the old building at present remains, except some pieces of round towers, and the ancient gate or door. By the foundations of the ruined walls, and the traces of the ditch, it appears, that this castle was not very large. The mansion, which is of later date, is converted into a farm-house.

Allington Castle stands about a mile north of Maidstone, on the western banks of the river Medway. This castle was of great note in the time of the Saxons, and was called the Castle of Medway; the Danes razed it to the ground, when they ravaged these parts; but it was rebuilt again after the conquest, by Earl *Warren*: it is supposed to have been designed for a place of strength in King Stephen's time. *Stephen de Panchester* was ordered by King Edward the First to rebuild a castle here, after it had been razed and dismantled, and to fortify and embattle it; which, when it was done, he denominated it Allington Penchester. He also built a fine tower here, and called it Solomon's tower; he had also of the same Prince, a charter of free warren; the grant of a market on Tuesdays, and of a three days fair at the festival of St. Lawrence.

We shall add to this account, what Selden and Daniel tells us about these castles. "About the middle of King Stephen's reign, saith the former, castles were erected in almost all parts of the kingdom, by the several contending parties; and each owner of a castle was a kind of a petty prince,
coining

coining his own money, and exercising sovereign jurisdiction over his people; and Daniel saith, that there were one thousand and seventeen castles built in England in his reign, King Stephen giving leave to every one to embattle, &c. but in the engagement between him and Duke Henry, afterwards King Henry the Second; they were all ordered to be demolished. This agreement was made at Winchester in the year 1154.

The castle has lately been converted into a farmhouse, the ancient part being out of repair.

To the north of Maidstone, on the left hand side of the road, between Rochester and that town, is *Halling-House*, one of the four houses belonging to the Bishops of Rochester, and pleasantly situated on the banks of the Medway. It is not positively known when it was built; but that the Bishops of Rochester had a house here in the time of King Henry the Second, appears from the following story, related by *Godwyn* in the life of Richard, then Archbishop of Canterbury:

“The end of this man is thus reported, how that being asleep at his manor of Wrotham, there seemed to come to him a certain terrible personage, demanding of him who he was; whereupon, when for fear, the Archbishop answered nothing. Thou art he (quoth the other) that has destroyed the goods of the church, and I will destroy thee from the earth. In the morning betime, the Archbishop got him up, and taking his journey towards Rochester, related this fearful vision to a friend of his by the way.

“He had no sooner told the tale, but he was taken suddainly with a great colde and stiffnesse in his limmes, so that they had much ado to get him as far as Halling, a house belonging to the Bishop of Rochester; there he took to his bed, and being horribly tormented with the cholicke and other greifs, until the next day, the night following the

16th of February, he gave up the ghost, Anno 1183. His body was carried to Canterbury, and honourably interred in the Lady Chapel."

When Harris wrote his History of this County, Anno 1719, many fragments of this house were standing; particularly the chapel, part of the hall, and a gate, with the arms of the See of Rochester in stone. It has since been totally destroyed for the sake of the materials.

A statue of Hamo de Hethe, was likewise remaining here in 1720, in a niche over the outside of the chief door; the statue was dressed in episcopal robes; about two feet high, and elegantly finished.

Close to it stands the parish church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist; in the Diocese and Deanry of Rochester. The manor of Haling, which in Saxon signifies the wholesome place or meadow, was granted to the See of Rochester by Egbert, King of Kent.

Not far distant from here, is

Cowling Castle, which takes its name from the parish wherein it is situated; which lies on the north side of the county, near the river Thames, about four miles north of Rochester.

It was built by John Lord Cobham, who, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of King Richard the Second, obtained a licence for its erection. There is a tradition, that he, fearing its strength might give some umbrage at court, to obviate it, caused the following lines to be cut on a scroll, with an appendant seal of his arms, in imitation of a deed or charter, and fixed on the easternmost tower of the chief entrance.

**Knoweth that beth and shall be
That I am made in help of the contre**
In

In knowing of which thing This is Charteꝛ and Witnessing.

About three miles and a half south-east of Maidstone, is

Leeds Castle, which according to *Kilburn*, was built about the year 857, by one *Ledian*, a Saxon, chief Counsellor to King Ethelbert the Second, which was afterwards destroyed by the Danes.

In the reign of Edward the IVth. it being then much run to ruin, was re-edified at the king's charge. It afterwards came by marriage into the family of the Lord Fairfax; in which it at present remains.

We shall now join the main road, which brings us to

Ashford, about fifty-seven miles from London, which is a market town, and tolerably well built, it stands upon the river Stour, and is governed by a Mayor, and has a Court of Record every three weeks, for all actions of debt or damages not exceeding twenty marks. The church is large and was formerly collegiate.

Just before you enter this town from London, is an ancient seat of the Tafton family, called *Hotbfield*, which is large, but very unhealthy, being situated in a low marshy soil.

Proceeding along the road, we come to *Ostenbanger House* and *Park*, belonging to the family of *Finch*.

Ostenbanger stands in the parish of Stamford, towards the south-west part of the county, about two miles and a half north of Hythe.

Harris, in his History of Kent, has the following curious description of this place. "Ostenbanger, now generally called Westhanger, as *Philpot* saith, it is written in the Pipe-roll of that year, in
the

the twenty-seventh of King Henry III. and much after the same manner I find it written in the next reign. This hath been anciently a very eminent seat, and, as some think, was once a parish by itself; and, indeed, it is not unlikely that the chapel of St. John here was once parochial; the ruins of the foundation, of which I saw plainly remaining between the moat and the great barn, and several tomb-stones, with crosses on them were dug up here. The worthy Justinian Champreys, Esq. the present owner of this manor, tells me, that by his writings, he judges this chapel to have been formerly a parish church; and there is now a place called the parsonage field. None of the eminent owners of this great house have been buried in Stamford church; and several of them having been buried here, is also another argument for the same opinion. John, son of Nicholas de Crioll, in the ninth year of King Edward III. obtained a licence to found a chauntry here, which he endowed with one messuage, forty-five acres of arable, and six acres of pasture land, lying in Limpne.

It many years after descended to Philip Smith, Viscount Strangeford, who resided here in Philpot's time, but at length he sold it to — Finch; from whence it went in the same way into the possession of Justinian Champreys, Esq. who hath built here a neat small house out of the remains of the old one; and very august and noble those ruins are, and shew this seat to have been once a very large and magnificent pile of building, and which some fancy to have been also of very great antiquity, for they will have it to have been erected by Oesee, son and successor to Hengist, King of Kent, and from him to have had the name of Oescin-hanger. But though this be not very improbable, (for I know not where else to fix the place of Hengist's residence in this county) yet we have nothing
in

in history to confirm it ; and the buildings here have by no means the face of so great antiquity, and I believe did not precede the time of the Crioll's or Auberville's, unless you would think that by the tower here, called Rosamond's, and where the tradition is, that fair mistress was kept for some time. It did belong once to Henry II. and perhaps might be given by him to the Aubervilles ; which conjecture will receive confirmation from what is observed here. As I was looking carefully over the venerable ruins of this place, I met with several pieces of excellent carved work in stone, for I found the left-hand of a statue well carved in stone, with the end of a sceptre grasped in it. This I fancied then to have been part of the figure of King Henry the II. because I remembered that in *Sandford's* Genealogical History of our Kings there was a seal of that prince, with his sceptre in his left hand, and the ball or mould in his right ; a position so unusual that one would almost conclude from it, that King Henry II. was left-handed. This house was once moated all round, and had a draw bridge, a gate-house, and portal, whose arch was large and strong, with a portcluse, or portcullis ; and the walls all embattled and fortified with three towers, one of which, with the gallery or garret adjoining to it, was called, as above-mentioned, Fair Rosamond's tower ; and it was thought she was kept here for some time before she was removed to Woodstock. The room they call her prison was the garret of one hundred and sixty feet in length, which they call her gallery. Within the great gates was a court of 130 feet square, in the middle of which was once a fountain. Over the door by which you entered the house was a stone figure of St. George on horse-back, and under that were four coats of arms ; the royal one, another, a key, and a crown, held by two angels ; but the
other

other two are defaced. On the right hand was a pair of free-stone stairs, eight feet wide, and of twenty steps: this led into a chapel of thirty-three feet long and seventeen feet wide; this was not the church or chapel of St. John, but one of a much later date, being erected there by Sir Edward Voyning, Knight of the Garter and Comptroller of the King's Household, in the twelfth year of King Henry VIII. This appears by a French inscription on two stones, which now lye in Mr. Smith's parlour in this parish, which among other things were brought out of the ruins of Westenhanger. At each corner of the window of this Chapel was carved curiously well in stone a canopy. There were also pedestals for statues, and over the window stood a stone statue of St. Anthony, with his pig at his feet, which had a bell hung in one of his ears. At the west end of the chapel were statues of St. Christopher and King Herod. The hall was fifty feet long and thirty-two feet wide, with a music gallery at one end, and cloisters which led from one end to the chapel parlour. There were then in the house one hundred and twenty-six rooms, and a report was that there were thirty-six windows. In the year 1701, for the lucre of one thousand pounds, which was given for the materials then standing in this house, three quarters of it was pulled down; and the account above is the condition it was in when that was begun.

Hytbe, or *Hitbe*, is the next place of any note that we meet with. It is situated near the sea, about sixty-nine miles from the metropolis; it is a Cinque Port, and sends two members to Parliament.

The Saxon name of this town *Hede*, *Heibe*, or *Hide*, signifies a port or station, though it at present scarcely deserves that appellation, the marsh having intercepted it from the sea. It was (according to *Leland*) formerly a place of great note and dimensions, and extended itself for two miles in length
along

along by the sea shore, and had then four more parish churches, which are now all demolished. He supposes, and very probably, that this place dates its rise and increase to the decay of West-hythe and Limne, which of course happened when the sea left them. Between three and four hundred years ago this town suffered greatly both by pestilence and fire; for besides losing almost all the inhabitants, two hundred houses and five ships were burnt.

Hythe is governed by a Mayor, Jurats, and Comonalty, and has now only a chapel dependent on the parish church of Saltwood. In the year 1739, on the 24th of April, a particular providence happened at this town: about eleven o'clock the steeple of the church fell down, in which were six bells; and although there were ten persons present when it fell, waiting in the church-porch for the keys to go into the steeple for a view, but some delay being made in bringing them, they fortunately met with no other damage than what arose from their fright.

In the Charnel-house, or vault under the church, are great numbers of human bones, piled up in heaps or stacks; they look white with age; and the people that shew them, pretend to distinguish mens bones from those of women. It hath been a long and very common enquiry, says *Harris*, how and on what occasions they came there, and perhaps will still continue a secret, for I can find nothing particular in history about them, and therefore can only offer my conjectures, which are these two:

1. That when this town came to decay, by the sea leaving it, &c. they might gather the bones of such persons as had been formerly buried in the four other churches and church-yards, and piled them up in the vault of this (perhaps then, new church, built upon the hill: and this will receive

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some

some confirmation, from considering that there have been, and are still to be seen, such charnel-houses in other churches, which are supposed to have been made for the same use.

But the other conjecture seems to be more probable, which is, that they were collected and piled up here on some eminent occasion; and for this, two transactions bid very fair: First, The French Invasion above-mentioned, in King Edward the First's reign, viz. about the year 1295, as *Knighton* places it; for it is not unnatural to suppose, that after so memorable an action, as their killing all the French that landed here, they might gather up their bones, and place them in the vault under their church, in perpetual memory of so great a deliverance, and so gallant an action.

But I am inclined to think they have yet an older and a more eminent original; viz. That they are the bones of the Saxons and Britons, whose bodies fell hereabouts, and at Folkestone, in the last battle, which *Vortimer* had with the Saxons, and when the Saxons were driven with so great a slaughter back to their ships, that they troubled us with no invasion for five years after; and this will appear yet more probable, if what Mr. *John Wilkinson*, of Shelve, in this county, kindly informs me of, be true; viz. That in digging a grave in Folkestone church, they found a vault, where great quantities of bones, like these, were piled up; for I judge the battle to have been fought between Folkestone and Hithe, and that the Saxon ships lay at Hithe, where then might be good riding for them.

Limne was formerly a Roman port, known by the name of *Lemonis*: it is now a little village adjoining, and formerly was very famous. At *Limne* church, from the brow of the hill, may be discerned the ruins of the Roman walls, situate almost at the
bottom

bottom of the marshes; a pleasant brook, which rises from a rock, west of the church, runs for some space on the east-side of the wall, then passes through it, and so along its lowermost edge, by the farmhouse at bottom; here coins have been found, and once the sea-bank broke, and admitted the ocean into all the adjacent marshes. The port is now called Shipway, where the Lord Warden of the Cinque ports was formerly sworn, the courts kept, and all the pleas relating thereto, till Dover superseded it.

We must again return back to the edge of the county, and take notice of the remarkables in the road that runs along the borders of this county, which divides it from Surry and Suffex; therefore, passing by New Cross turnpike, the first place we shall take notice of, is

Lewisham, which stands on the river Ravensbourn, about five miles and a half from the metropolis. It is famous for several great meetings; viz. Of the Emperor of Constantinople, by King Henry the Fourth, in 1415. Of Anne of Cleves, by King Henry VIII. in 1539. Of the Admiral of France and Archbishop of Paris, by the Lord High Admiral of England, and five hundred gentlemen attendants. Of Cardinal Campegio, by the Duke of Norfolk, and many prelates and gentlemen; and here the lord-mayor and citizens of London, in their robes, met King Henry V. when he came from the conquest of France in 1410; the Emperor Sigismund in 1416, and King Edward the IVth in 1474.

An alms-house and two free-schools were founded here by *Abraham Galf*, minister of this parish, in pursuance of an act of parliament of King Charles II. for the teaching of English in one school and Latin in the other, with an allowance not only to the masters, but to such scholars as should be fitted for the university; and he committed the government
of

of these schools to the company of Leather-sellers in London.

Between Lewisham and Dulwich, in this parish, there formerly stood an old oak, upon a hill, called the Oak of Honour, because that great Princess, Queen Elizabeth, once dined under it.

From Lewisham we pass on to *Bromley*, ten miles from London, which is very remarkable for two things: 1. The palace of the Bishop of Rochester, to whom King Edgar gave the manor in the year 700: it is pleasantly situated with good gardens and other conveniences.

A well in the Bishop's park, which was called *St. Blase's Well*, anciently had a chapel by it, that was dedicated to *St. Blasius*, and used to be much frequented at Whitsuntide; because *Lucius*, who was Legate here from Pope *Sixtus IV.* granted an indulgence, or remission of forty days penance, to all who should visit this chapel, and perform their devotions here in the three holy days at Whitsuntide.

2. A college or hospital was erected here in the reign of King Charles II. by Dr. *John Warner*, the then Bishop of Rochester, for twenty poor clergymen's widows, with an allowance of twenty pounds *per annum* to each, and fifty pounds a year to a chaplain.

On the right of Riverhead near Sevenoaks, is Montreal, a handsome new-built seat belonging to Sir *Jeffery Amberst*.

Sevenoaks is a market town, which lies by the river Darwent, twenty-three miles from London: it derived its name from seven large oaks, which formerly grew here. It is a great thoroughfare to Tunbridge and Rye, and has a good hospital for maintaining poor old people, and a school for teaching poor children, built and endowed by Sir *William Sevenoak*, Lord-mayor of London. This gentleman was

was a foundling, but some charitable persons of this place, took care of him, maintained him, and named him after the town. Sir William, to shew his gratitude to the town, gave this charity as a reward.

Jack Cade, and his followers, defeated Sir *Humphrey Stafford* at this place, who was sent against the rebels, by King Henry VI. The town is governed by a warden and assistants.

About seven miles from the last town, and thirty from London, the town of *Tunbridge* is situated, so famous for its mineral waters. It derives its name from its fine stone bridge over the little river Tunn, which runs into the Medway hard by; the ruins of an old castle are still to be seen here, on the southern banks of the river: it was built by Richard, Earl of Clare, a natural son of Richard I. Duke of Normandy, who, as Camden says, exchanged his Lordship of *Britany* in that Dutchy, for the like quantity in this place; he also built a church here and a priory. The present church is a modern structure, and the houses of the town are mostly ill built. A free-school was founded here by Sir *Andrew Judd*, some time Lord-mayor of London, and put under the management of the Skinners company, of which he was a member, and has always been in great repute, for the eminent scholars that it has produced.

The Wells, to which great numbers of polite people resort, are about four miles from the town, and the spring which supplies the wells, rises in the next parish of *Spelhurst*; the buildings about the wells, which are much more elegant and better built than those of the town, are situated at the bottom of two hills, one of which is called Mount Sion, the other Mount Ephraim, both covered with good houses, fine gardens and fruit-trees.

The

The principal well of resort is walled in, and neatly paved like a cistern: two paved walks run from it, one of which is a long gallery covered over, for the band of music to play in; and there is a row of shop and coffee-rooms, where is card-playing, &c. as also a hall to dance in. There is a good market on the other side; and behind the wells is a church, or rather a chapel of ease to the parish church, where divine service is performed twice a day during the season for drinking the waters.

About eight o'clock in the morning, the company go down to the wells, take a draught of the waters, and between each glass take a walk upon the parade, while the music is constantly playing, which renders it very agreeable. An hour or two is fauntered away in this manner, after which they retire to the rooms in parties, or to breakfast in their own apartments.

After they have thrown off their dishabille, most of the genteel company attend the morning service at the chapel, which begins about eleven o'clock, after prayers are over, most of them take the air, some on horseback, some in carriages, and others on foot, till between two and three, when they return home to dinner; when dinner is over, they flock in numbers to the parade, as in the morning, but full dressed, each beau and belle vying with each other for splendor, grandeur and fashion, while the music from the orchestra welcomes their appearance. Here they pass away the time till between five and six o'clock, if the weather is fine, and then resort to the public rooms to tea and cards in the evening.

Besides the above, there are two balls twice a week, viz. on Tuesdays and Fridays, which begin constantly at six o'clock, and end at eleven: private balls and concerts are frequently given by the gentlemen to select companies, and many other amusements deemed necessary and of great efficacy to assist the

the medicinal waters to recover a tender frame, or amend a debilitated or hypochondriacal constitution.

But in fact, the waters are held in great esteem for their virtues, as an efficacious chalybeat; they operate by urine and perspiration. In all robust constitutions but partially depraved, in the cold chronical distempers of such habits, in nervous disorders and low spirits, in weak digestions and gross habits, they are extremely successful, especially in the latter season of the year.

Here is plenty of provision of all sorts, and the county round about it stored with abundance of game, as pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, snipes, quails, and particularly the delicious bird called the wheat ear from the South Downs. Fish they have likewise plenty of, from Rye and other towns on the sea-coast, and almost every thing in season.

There was a castle here in the time of William the Conqueror, in the year 1088, and likewise a priory which was demolished at the suppression of religious houses, by Henry the Eighth.

On the west of Sevenoaks, on the borders of Surry, is *Westerham*, a neat, handsome, well-built market-town; here is a very noble house called *Squirries*, built, or rather finished, by the late Earl of Jersey, for it was probably originally erected by *John de Squirrie*, in the reign of King Henry III. it is now in the possession of a descendant of *John Ward*, who was Lord-Mayor of London, in the year 1719. The house stands on a small eminence, respecting the land in the front, but the ground rises to a very considerable height on the back of it, and is divided into several slopes, which (as the hills are to the south and west side of the house), renders the situation damp and cold; the present possessor has cut several ridings through a wood near the house, many of which are too steep for the purpose

purpose they were designed ; above the house, on the south-side of the hill, arise nine considerable springs, which unite at a small distance and form the river Dart.

About four miles south-west of Tunbridge, is the village of *Chidingstone*, in a farm-yard of which south of the street, is a large stone, called the Chiding-stone, thought to be one of those consecrated rocks mentioned by *Borlase* in his history of Cornwall, as so much formerly venerated by the northern nations ; an instance of which he quotes from *Toland*, who says, the druids held these consecrated rocks in such estimation, that, if we may credit the accounts we have from Ireland, they covered the famous stone of *Clogher* (which was a kind of pedestal to the *Kesmond Kel-Stack* : the *Mercurius Celticus*) over with gold. The stone here mentioned, is of the natural rock, and seems in shape and size extremely similar to one described in *Borlase's* history of Cornwall, standing in a village called *Mer*, in the parish of *Constantine* : on the front, the flat stones, which serve for a kind of pedestal, have somewhat the appearance of steps ; whether fashioned by art, or the effect of accident, cannot be ascertained, as time and weather would long ago have effaced the marks of the tool, had any been employed.

There is an obscure, and almost forgotten tradition among the ancient people of this village, that in former times this was a holy stone, on which a priest used to sit and hear the confessions of the people, who resorted in numbers to ask his prayers, and receive absolution ; and that his admonitions and reproofs procured it the appellation of the Chiding-stone, a name it still bears ; and, as the story goes, from it the village likewise obtained the name of Chiding-stone.

This

This is evidently an absurd story : all that is meant to shew, is, the existence of a tradition, that this was formerly a place of worship, the circumstances of which have been perverted in passing through the mouths of the different relators.

The tradition above-mentioned is little known. A gentleman to whom Mr. *Grosse* applied for information relative to this rock, though an inhabitant of the place, and a lover of antiquities, had never heard of it ; neither, as he said, was the stone generally looked on as a curiosity. On this account I would not have inserted it, but for the several gentlemen who deem it a curiosity, and who hope, thro' its publication, to hear the matter discussed by some person conversant in those kind of monuments.

We meet with nothing farther remarkable on this road till we come to *Tenterden*, which has a very good and high steeple of its church as a beacon, whose erection hath been commonly said " to be the cause of *Godwin's Sands*." We should not have mentioned this extravagant saying, but for the notice *Kilburn* takes of it, who says, it took its rise from hence. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Earl *Godwin* had a great deal of land in East Kent, near the isle of Thanet, and this was defended from the sea by a great wall, anno domini, 1099 ; the Abbot of St. Austin's in Canterbury being also owner of the parsonage of *Tenterden*, and having began to build the fine town, it took up so much of his thoughts, time and money, that he neglected the care of the walling and fences against the sea, near the isle of Thanet, and on November the 3d. 1099, the sea, in consequence thereof, broke in, overflowed all the lands, and the place hath since been known by the name of *Godwin's Sands*, while others aver it was only an extravagant saying, to expose some forced consequence in reasoning ; by which a person might say, " You may as well tell me, that the building of *Tenterden Steeple* was the cause of

Godwin's Sands, as that your conclusion can be inferred from those premises."

Romney, which is divided into old and new; the first about sixty-seven miles from London, and the last about seventy, probably derived its name from the Saxon *Rumn*, to open a place, and *ea*, water, i. e. the place where the water yielded a passage for ships; this town is one of the Cinque ports. It is seated on a great eminence of gravel and sand, and had a pretty large harbour on the west side of it, guarded against west winds, before the sea retired from it. In the year 1287, it was divided into twelve wards, and had five parish churches, a priory, and an hospital for the sick. But it has been dwindling to its present low condition, ever since the reign of King Edward I. when an inundation of the sea destroyed men, cattle and houses, threw down a whole populous village called Prom Hill, and removed the Rother, which used to empty itself into the sea at Romney out of its channel, stopping up its mouth and opening a nearer passage into the sea by Rye, leaving only a little bay here for fishing boats. The marsh contains about forty or fifty thousand acres of firm, fruitful land, esteemed the richest pasture in England, and the town chiefly subsists by grazing of cattle in this marsh.

From Romney Marsh the sea extends itself a great way into the sea, and makes that point of land called *Dengynes*. In the sea-beach, near Lydd, is a great heap of stones, called by the common people the Tomb of St. *Crispin*, whom they report to have been shipwrecked and buried here. Dr. *Battely* conjectures, they might have been set up in memory of the family of the *Crispini* among the Romans, who had command here in Britain.

On the south side of Lydd is a place called *Holm-stone*, where formerly Holm or holly trees, grew in great abundance, though at present the ground appears to be nothing in a manner but stones and pebbles.

HOME CIRCUIT.

S U R R Y.

THIS County is bounded on the west by Hampshire, on the east by Kent, on the south by Suffex, and on the north by the Thames. It derives its name from the Saxon *Sudree*, or *Sutbre*, from its situation on the south of the *Rbee* or River.

Surry is watered by the Thames, the Wey, and the Mole, which are reckoned her most considerable streams.

The mole rises in the south-east side of the shire, and had its name, as is supposed, from its sinking into the earth, at the swallows at the foot of Box-hill, and working its way under ground near two miles to Leather-head, where it is said to rise again, and running northward falls into the Thames at a village, from thence called Moulsey. But from nicer and later discoveries, and for ought we know, the stream which rises at Leatherhed may flow from new springs, and the Mole may take another course,

The Wey enters this county from Hampshire, near Farnham, runs east towards Godalmin, and turning to the north, becomes navigable to the Thames at Wey-bridge, being by that means a vast benefit to the county, which it supplies with
all

all sorts of necessaries, particularly coals from London.

This county is healthful and pleasant, and boasts of several royal palaces, and many seats of the nobility and gentry, besides many handsome houses of wealthy and eminent citizens of London; but the air as well as the soil of the middle and the extreme parts is vastly different, the air being mild in the latter, which is very fruitful in corn and hay, with a fine mixture of woods and fields, especially on the south about Holmesdale, and on the north towards the Thames; but the air is bleak in the heart of the county, which, except a delightful spot here and there, is all open, sandy ground, and barren heath; for which reason the county is not unaptly compared to a coarse cloth, with a fine list, or hem; and in some places there are long ridges of hills or downs, with warrens for rabbits, and hares, and parks for deer.

We before took notice of several places in this county, as Southwark, Lambeth, &c. which being so connected with the city of London by their buildings and trade, that we could not with any propriety have separated them in our survey of the metropolis; we shall now, therefore, join the road at Newington, which we left at page 165, Vol. I. and follow it southerly along the borders of Kent, to its entrance into Sussex at East Grinstead.

On the left-hand, towards Stretham, in this road, is

Dulwich, which is remarkable for two things,
 1. Its wells, where great numbers of people used to resort to drink the waters in summer, which met with the approbation of that great Physician *Sydenham*, for their medicinal virtues: they are likewise called *Sydenham Wells*. 2. For its College called the College of *God's-gift*, founded and endowed by Edward Alleyne, Esq. in the year 1619, for a master, a warden, and four fellows, for which he had

had King James's Letters Patent, and by the endowment the founder has excluded all future benefactions for its augmentation. The following particulars are among the rest of the articles confirmed for the above endowment, *viz.*

The master and warden to be un-married, and always of the name of Alleyne.

The following is the tradition concerning the occasion of the foundation, which is thus recited by Mr. *Aubrey*, and others.

M. Alleyne, it seems was a tragedian, and one of the original actors in many of the plays of the celebrated Shakespeare; in one of which he played the part of a Dæmon, with six others. But in the midst of the play Alleyne was terribly frightened by the appearance of the devil in *propria persona*, which so worked on his fancy that he made a vow which he performed at this place.

Though Mr. Alleyne thought that by this method he had expiated the injury he had done in personating the devil, yet he appears not entirely to have laid him, for some years after, upon a second marriage of Mr. Alleyne, his wife prevailed with him to revoke his charity, but the trustees *Defied Satan and all his Works*, by not suffering it, and obliging him to stick to the agreement he had signed.

The fine walk through the wood over against the Green Man, affords, when at the top of it, a noble prospect; but yet it is exceeded by an hill behind the house at the right-hand, for the distinctness as well as nobleness of it; for here, as from the centre to the whole (the Oak of Honour-hill, as it is called, just by you, clothed very agreeably with wood,) you have in your eye in such a manner, that you can distinguish, as if in a table, the very houses, as well as churches, and other public edifices, from Putney-bridge down to Chelsea,

fea, and all the adjacent villages, Westminster, London, Deptford, Greenwich, Black-wall, a considerable part of Kent, Essex, and, beyond and over the great metropolis, Highgate, Hampstead, as far as the eye can reach.

Stretham, about six miles from London, is also famous for its medicinal springs. The old Roman Military way is supposed to have passed by the Duke of Bedford's house, which is said to have been purchased of Queen Elizabeth, and to have been one of her royal palaces, but as there are no acts of that Queen dated from Stretham, nor the remains of buildings requisite to receive the attendance of a prince's, though retiring in the most private manner, there is little pretence to this tradition.

From Stretham to *Croydon* is near five miles, and near eleven from London, it has a great market for corn, but chiefly for oats and oatmeal, for the service of London. The town is large and full of citizens from London. In it is the ancient palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and several of them are buried here, particularly Archbishop Witgift, who not only repaired the palace, but built and endowed the famous hospital and the free-school; the hospital is for a warden and twenty-eight men and women, poor decayed house-keepers of this town and of Lambeth.

On the right of Croydon, is

Beddington, which has anciently been a considerable place, inhabited by Romans, as appears from foundations, urns, and other remains, discovered in ploughing: here is the seat or mansion-house of the ancient family of the Karews, the house is noble, and the gardens fine, yet nice architects say, that the two wings are too deep for the body of the house; that they should either have been more asunder, or not so long. The court before them is
extremely

extremely fine, as is the canal in the park before the court, having a river running through it : the gardens take up all the flat part of the park with vistas, or prospects, for two or three miles. The orange trees, many of which were transplanted from Italy, and formerly growing here in the open ground, are now dead. They had moving-houses to shelter them in the winter, from the inclemencies of our climate ; but a few years since, the owner was at the expence of erecting a fine greenhouse, with sashes in front ; the top of the house to take off in Summer : since which time the trees have been constantly decaying ; for, standing as it were in a narrow alley, between two walls, when the top is taken away, the current of air is so great, as to break the branches, and prevent the growth of the trees. They had stood in the ground above an hundred years, and produced annually great quantities of fruit.

From hence it is but a little mile to

Carshalton, it is situated among innumerable springs, and joining the other springs which come from Croydon and Beddington make one stream, called the Wandell. Although this village lies among such delightful springs, it is yet upon firm chalk, and having Banstead Downs adjoining, makes the most agreeable spot on this side of London, as is abundantly testified by its being crowded as it were, with fine houses of the citizens of London, some of which are built with such a profusion of expence, that they look rather like seats of the nobility, than country-houses of citizens and merchants.

The next town on the road worthy remark, is

Godstone, or *Goodstone*, which seems to have taken its name from the Quarry they have there, and some other villages in the neighbourhood, of what is called

called fire-stone, chiefly used for the inside of chimnies, bakers ovens, glafs-houses, &c.

Near *Blechingley*, is *Gatton*, another poor town, which has neither fair nor market, but sends two members to parliament. Mr. *Aubrey* supports the opinion of a very ancient gate or street here; he says, it was a town well known to the Romans, as coins and other antiquities have been discovered here, and besides these, Mr. *Camden* speaks of a castle, the ruins of which he had seen.

From *Blechingley* we reach *Ryegate*, by a cross road. It seems to have derived its name from the Saxon *Rigge*, or *Ridge*, from the likeness of the hill to the back of a beast, and *Gate* is an old word for a road or tract in which we go, still kept up in Yorkshire.

It is as well as the two last, a borough town, with a large market, situated in the valley of *Holmesdale*, of which hereafter; the castle was built by Earl Warren, but the date is not known; *Camden* says, it was called *Holmesdale Castle*; the capacious cave in the castle, with seats all round, cut out of the sandy rock, may have been the store-house, or the place where prisoners were kept, and tradition relates, that in this cave the Barons held their council the night before they met the King at *Run Meade*, and obtained the *Magna Charta*.

Earl Warren possessed great estates in different counties; the second William Earl Warren, who lived in the reign of Rufus, was the first Earl of Surry, we shall therefore beg leave to make a short digression to relate an anecdote of the first Earl William, from the Monks of *Ely*, some of whose lands he had taken from them, which, though founded upon a ridiculous story, lets us into a notion of that strict honour, for which they would recommend themselves to posterity.

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“ The Abbot of Ely, at the minute William expired, though many miles distant, saw the devil carrying off his soul, and heard him pray to God for mercy. This he told next day to the society, four days after came a messenger from the Earl's Lady, (who, by the way, died some years before him) who brought a hundred shillings to them for the good of her husband's soul; but the Abbot refused it, saying, he would not touch the money of a man that was damned.”

Had these gentry been so squeamish as never to have accepted any thing, from such as left the world with imputation of avarice and sacrilege, they had not been so good a prey to their dissolver.

Under the hill, adjoining to Ryegate, on the south side, is a large house, beautified with plantations, and a handsome piece of water. It was formerly a priory of Black Canons, and purchased by the late Sir John Parsons, who was Lord Mayor of London; the halls are long and proportionably broad, but the cielings are like those of most of the antient buildings, much too low. The prospect from the house and gardens is rendered very romantic by the hills which surround them on every side.

The late Lord Shaftsbury had a house in this town, to which he frequently retired when he was inclined to seclude himself from company. It has since been possessed by a private gentleman, who has laid out and planted a small spot of a ground in so many little parts, as to comprise whatever can be supposed in the most noble seats; so that it may properly be called, a model of a garden and a park; for in the garden there is a mount, a river, a parterre, and a wilderness, and without that a lawn, with several deer, terminated by a small wood, and yet the whole compass is not more

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than

than four acres. The name it passes under to the inhabitants of Ryegate, is *The World in an Acre of Land*.

We shall now say a few words of the Valley of *Holmward*, or *Holmesdale*, in which Ryegate is situated, and which extends for many miles east and west, with hills on each side: It is supposed to have taken its name from the number of Holmtrees that formerly grew there. It is now chiefly over-grown with furz, but was famous for producing such quantities of straw-berries, that they were carried to market by horse-loads.

The inhabitant boast that they never were beaten, neither by the Romans, Saxons nor Danes, on which account they have the following lines:

This is *Holmesdale*,
Never conquer'd, never shall.

In the woody parts of this vale were often found out lying red deer, and in the reign of King James II. or while he was Duke of York, they hunted the largest stags here that have been seen in England. The Duke took great care to have them preserved for his own sport, but they have since that time been most of them destroyed.

We shall now return back to Newington, and take the Arundel road, as far as it reaches, in this county. Therefore, after passing Looting, Wandel-bridge, Marden, and Ewel, which possess nothing worthy of notice, we shall proceed to Epsom, observing, that on the left of the road near *Cheam*, is *Non-such*, now a farm house, but originally a palace, built here by King Henry VIII. who gave it the above name from the beauty both of art and situation. King Charles the II^d. gave it to the Duchess of Cleveland, and she sold to Lord Berkeley, who built a fine seat with the materials of it,
near

near Epsom, called Durdans, now in the possession of the Earl of Guildford.

Epsom, which is a village about a mile in length, forming a semicircle, has been long famous for its purging springs. It is situated in a most pleasant spot, being open to Banstead Downs, and has a variety of delightful walks and prospects, with many handsome seats, not only of the nobility and gentry, but of the merchants and tradesmen of the city of London.

Its original name is *Ebbesham*, probably named from the seat of one Ebba. The medicinal spring here was first discovered here about the year 1618, by some labourers accidentally drinking of it: the waters issue from a rising ground near Ashsted, and were formerly in great repute, and still possess the same qualities as heretofore, but through whim, caprice, fashion, or their vicinity to London, they are not in such great vogue at present.

On the neighbouring downs are frequent horse-races, but the wells and bowling-greens having not been frequented so much as formerly, by the nobility and gentry, the hall, galleries and other apartments are much decayed.

On the left of Epsom, is the Village of

Bansted, supposed to be a contraction from *Beaconsfield*, as probably a beacon formerly stood hereabouts. This place is noted for the downs before-mentioned, which is covered with a short herbage, and the mutton fed here, though small, is exceedingly sweet. Here is a four-mile course for horse-races, and the downs stretches about thirty miles in length, from Croydon to Farnham, and the prospect from them is extremely entertaining to the traveller, over a variety of hills and dales, which afford an agreeable variation.

Leatherhead, which lies in the main road from Epsom, is about nineteen miles from London, a
little

little thoroughfare town, which has a very long stone bridge over the Mole, owing to the stream being broad and shallow, the Mole making its new appearance here after its sinking into the earth near Mickleham, about three miles distance from Leatherhead.

Eastward of the road is

Watton upon the Hill, so called to distinguish it from *Watton upon Thames*. It is said to owe its name to the earthwork raised above the downs near Mickleham, which appears to have been a British or Saxon limit for division of the county.

Darking, twenty-four miles from the metropolis, extends about five miles from east to west, and nearly the same length from north to south. The town, though not large, is populous, the street wide and open, and from the situation, naturally clean. The Church is plain, with a tower steeple, in which is a ring of eight small tunable bells, and a set of chimes. Here is likewise a meeting-house for the Presbyterians, and another for the Quakers.

This town is esteemed the most famous in England for poultry, and particularly for the fattest geese and largest capons, which are brought hither from Horsham in Sussex, and employs greater part of the people on that side of the country, to breed and fatten them. They are sold at a very large size, some of them little inferior to turkies.

The fair here for cattle and lambs on Holy Thursday, was formerly one of the greatest in the kingdom, but has been considerably diminished within these few years, principally owing to the jobbers at Horsham, who engross great numbers of them for Smithfield-market.

About three miles south of this town is a Roman camp, standing upon the way from Darking to Stone-street. Mr. *Aubrey* mentions a castle which stood

stood in Darking, called *Bertram Castle*, which was destroyed by the Danes; certain it is, that those invaders did plunder and destroy the town, which was rebuilt by the Normans; the great Roman highway passes through its church-yard, it being made of flint and pebbles, and was from seven to ten yards broad, and near a yard and a half deep; and as there is not a flint to be seen within many miles of it, it appeared so remarkable to the common people, that they thought the devil had a hand in it.

Here is a little common or heath belonging to this town, said by some learned physicians to be the best air in England: it is called *Cotman Dean*, or the heath of poor cottagers, on which stand their alms-houses.

Several handsome seats belonging to the nobility and gentry, are scattered round this town, particularly Shrub Hill, at the entrance of Darking, the seat of the Lord Cathcart; the house and garden, called *Deepden*, which stands in a small valley, environed with steep hills on every side; the level ground about the house, was laid out into pleasant walks and gardens, which were planted with a great variety of exotics, and the hills thickly beset with trees on every side, excepting on the south side, which was planted with vines; and it is said, that formerly there has been some good wine made there, though the hill is so steep, that it is very difficult to walk up it. At present the gardens and vineyard are neglected, and many of the exotic trees have been destroyed. On the summit of the hill, above the vineyard, is a summer-house, from which in a clear day, you may discern the sea over the South Downs near Arundel.

Beachworth Castle, to the east of Darking, is an elegant seat, and to the west is another magnificent one, as likewise a very fine house built by *William*

Page,

Page, Esq. On the highest part of Ranmer Hills, which bound Darking parish on the north, is the seat of the late *Jonathan Tyers, Esq.* the celebrated proprietor of Vauxhall Gardens, whose improvements shewed his correct taste and judgment.

In this neighbourhood is a hill, which commands a most enchanting prospect, called Box-Hill, and takes its name from that tree: it was first planted with boxwood, by that famous antiquary *Thomas, Earl of Arundel*; from this hill, in clear weather, the view stretches quite over the Weald of Suffex to the South Downs; and by the help of glasses the town of Horsham, Ashdown Forest, the Earl of Egremont's seat at Petworth and the South Downs, as they range between Brighthelmstone and Arundel, may be plainly seen, besides an unbounded prospect into Kent.

But though this hill exhibits a most delightful view, yet *Leith Hill*, about five miles South of Darking, affords a much nobler prospect, and as the description given of it by *Mr. Dennis*, in a letter to his friend *Mr. Serjeant*, is just and worthy of notice, we shall therefore give it in the bard's own words.

"I never in all my life left the country without regret, and always returned to it with joy. The sight of a mountain is to me more agreeable than that of the most pompous edifice; and meadows, and natural winding streams, please me before the most beautiful gardens, and the most costly canals. So much (says he) does art appear to me to be surpassed by nature, and the works of men by the works of God.

"In a late journey which I took into the wild of Suffex, I passed over an hill which shewed me a more transporting sight, than ever the country had shewn me before either in England or Italy. The prospects, which in Italy pleased me most, were that of the Valdarno, from the Apennines; that of
Rome,

Rome, and the Mediterranean, from the mountain of Viterbo; of Rome; at forty, and of the Mediterranean, at fifty miles distance from it; and that of the Campagne of Rome, from Tivoli and Fregati; from which two places you see every sort of that famous Campagne, to the very foot of the mountain of Viterbo, without any thing to intercept your sight. But from an hill, which I passed in my late journey into Suffex, I had a prospect more extensive than any of these, and which surpassed them at once in rural charms, in pomp, and in magnificence. The hill which I speak of, is called Leith-hill, and is about five miles southward from Darking, about six from Box-hill, and near twelve from Epsom. It juts itself out about two miles beyond that range of hills, which terminates the North Downs to the South. When I saw, from one of those hills, at about two miles distance, that side of Leith Hill which faces the Northern Downs, it appeared the beautifullest prospect I had ever seen; but after we conquered the Hill itself, I saw a sight that would transport a stoic; a sight that looked like enchantment and vision, but vision beatific. Beneath us lay open to our view all the wilds of Surry and Suffex, and a great part of that of Kent, admirably diversified in every part of them with woods, and fields of corn and pasture, being every where adorned with stately rows of trees.

“This beautiful vale is about thirty miles in breadth, and about sixty in length, and is terminated to the south by the majestic range of the Southern Hills, and the sea; and it is no easy matter to decide, whether these hills, which appear at thirty, forty, or fifty miles distance, with their tops in the sky, appear more awful and venerable, or the delicious vale between you and them more inviting. About noon, in a serene day,

day, you may, at thirty miles distance, see the very water of the sea, through a chasm of the mountains. And that which, above all, makes it a noble prospect, is, that at the same time that, at thirty miles distance, you behold the very water of the sea, you behold to the south the most delicious rural prospect in the world, at that very time, by a little turn of your head towards the north, you look full over Box-hill, and see the country beyond it, between that and London; and, over the very stomacher of it, see St. Paul's at twenty-five miles distance, and London beneath it, and Highgate and Hampstead beyond it.

“ It may, perhaps (adds this famous critic), appear incredible to some, that a place, which affords so great and so surprising a prospect, should have remained so long in obscurity; in so great obscurity, that it is unknown to the very frequenters of Epfom and Box-hill. But, alas! we live in a country more fertile of great things, than of men to admire them. Whoever talked of Cooper's Hill, till Sir *John Denham* made it illustrious? How long did Milton remain in obscurity, while twenty paltry authors, little and vile, if compared to him, were talked of, and admired? But here in England, nineteen in twenty approve by other people's opinions, and not by their own.”

Okely, hereabouts, is named from the plenty of oaks growing on it; here was formerly a castle near the church, and it is said, that a bloody battle was fought here between *Ethelwolf* and the Danes, after their fifth invasion. A former author relates, that its church-yard is remarkable for rose-bushes at the head of many of the graves, from a custom here time out of mind, among the young lovers, that, at their death before marriage, the survivor plants a rose-tree at the head of the deceased's grave, which some
of

of them are at the expence of keeping up many years. This practice is probably derived from the Greeks and Romans, who according to *Anacreon* and *Ovid*, thought roses planted and strewed upon the graves of the dead, perfumed and protected their ashes.

As we find nothing more worthy of observation on this road in Surry, we shall retreat again to Newington, and trace the Portsmouth road in this county. From Newington, we pass by the village of Battersea, which lies pleasantly on the Thames, with many very handsome houses by the side of the river, but has nothing else worthy of attention. Clapham, Putney and Wimbledon, are also but of little note, but for the elegant seats with which they are crowded. Wandsworth indeed is of some note for its manufacture of brass plates and kettles, stilllets, frying-pans, &c. and there is an exceeding fine seat here, belonging to Lord Spencer.

Kingston upon Thames, twelve miles and a half from London, so called from a castle that was erected here, said to be the residence of several Saxon Kings, of whom Athelstan, Etheldred I. and II. Edwin and Edward the Martyrs, were crowned here. It has a large wooden bridge over the Thames, which is navigable here for large barges.

The church here is spacious with eight bells, in which besides the pictures of the aforesaid Kings, which are preserved here in St. Mary's Chancel; there is also the picture of King John, who gave this town the first charter of incorporation. Queen Elizabeth erected and endowed a free school here; and Alderman *Cleave*, of London, built an alms-house here in 1670, and endowed it with lands of eighty pounds *per Annum*, for the maintenance of six men and six women.

At a little distance from hence to the south-east, is *Comb Nevil*, a house where formerly the great Earl

of Warwick, surnamed *Make King*, resided; but it afterwards was in the possession of the family of *Herveys*; here it is said the waters of certain springs are conveyed to leaden pipes under the road and the Thames to Hampton Court, three miles in length. Several Roman urns, coins, and other antiquities, have been found here.

The road passes from hence by Thames Ditton to *Esher*, which was formerly the seat of *Cardinal Wolsey*, who built it, and to which, during his ministry, he frequently retired for amusement. It was afterwards turned into a dwelling house, purchased by the late Right Honourable *Henry Pelham*, Esq. who beautified and repaired it, and laid the grounds out with such taste and judgment, as has rendered it a compleat and elegant retreat, though no cost has been spared to render this place elegant, yet the river Mole running near the back of the house, somewhat diminishes the pleasure of the place, by rendering it extremely damp, and the house standing so exceeding low, it is not to be seen till you approach very near it.

Not far from *Esher* is *Claremont*, which was a small house built under a hill covered with wood, by the late Sir *John Vanbrugh*: it was purchased by his grace the late Duke of Newcastle, who was at a great expence in enlarging the house, beautifying the gardens, &c. the additional buildings are in the same stile as the original house; he also built a very large room, in which his grace entertained foreign embassadors, and where all the magnificent dinners which the Duke made in the country were served up. This house, like the last, is subject to be damp, which arises from the moisture that issues from the hill, near which it is situated, and the winds reverberating back from the woods on the house, cause most of the chimnies to smoke, which makes it a disagreeable habitation in winter. This
seat

feat was afterwards in the possession of the late Lord Clive.

Painshill, near *Cobham*, is a beautiful feat belonging to Mr. Hamilton, and exceedingly worth the traveller's attention, for which reason we shall dwell a little minutely on the most striking beauties, giving a description partly in the words of Mr. Young, who was greatly pleased with the scene.

" Before the house are a few winding shrubberies, which are parted from the park by net-work, and in which is a commodious green-house; leaving which you pass through the park to an inclosed plantation, which has an agreeable walk, commanding a pretty valley, through a winding row of fir trees, and on the summit of a bank, planted with vines; which have produced about three half-hogshheads of wine, at a vintage. At the end of this walk is an open Gothic temple, a very light structure, which looks upon a large piece of water, with a handsome bridge thrown over an arm of it; the temple being placed upon a rising piece of ground, and looks down upon the water, the beauty of the scene is greatly increased. From thence we wind through a fresh walk, near another part of the water, cross a bridge, formed to appearance of rocks and fossils; and turning down on the right, find that this bridge is the covering of a most beautiful grotto, as well as the water, for immediately under, is a large incrustation of fossils, and spar hanging every where like icicles, and from the cieling has a most pleasing effect. On each side of the water is a small path, parted from the stream by marine fossils: from this grotto, the walk leads on the side of the stream, to a ruined arch, in a just taste: the tessellated pavement, the mosaic cieling, and the basso and alto relievos, which are let into the wall are all in decay; the symptoms of which are excellently imitated, with weeds growing from the
ruined

ruined parts, and all the other marks of antiquity. Through the arch the river appears winding in a proper manner ; that is, dark and gloomy, around a rough piece of grass, which has a consistent appearance. But what hurt me was the contradiction of emotions, raised by the scene behind, which was totally different from that of the ruin ; elegant and agreeable ; a smooth water and sloping banks ; closely shaven, with a little island in it are all agreeable objects ; and by no means affect the spectator in union with the ruins of Grecian architecture, and the gloomy objects around.

“The cascade, though trifling, is in a very just taste. The water gushes in five or six streams out of tufts of weeds, growing in the rock ; over it bends the trunk of an old oak, from side to side, which has an exceeding good effect ; and the trees rising to a great height above all, finish the scene completely. This cascade is fed by a wheel, that lifts the water from the river, which falling in the cascade, keeps up the lake already mentioned. From hence we proceed through a piece of wild ground, over-run with fern and rubbish, through a scoop or hollow, bounded by high firs on each side, and in which the tower (another ornamental building) appears with a very pleasing effect to other darker walks, quite closed, which lead to the hermitage ; we entered a small room, nearly dark ; and on the opening a door out of it, into the hermit's parlour, the windows at once present a very beautiful scene ; for you look down upon a river, winding round some cultivated fields, with a very good prospect, bounding the whole. The tower is the next building, from it is seen a very fine prospect, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Windsor Castle, being two among many other objects ; but the temple of Bacchus which we come to next, is infinitely beyond it. It consists of one handsome room,

room, elegantly stuccoed, with a portico of Corinthian pillars, in a light and beautiful taste; in niches under the portico, are four copies in plaister from celebrated statues; the *Venus de Medicis*, and *Venus*, with fine haunches, making two, and both good. Around the room are antique Roman statues, on pedestals, and in the middle a Colossal one of *Bacchus*; from hence another winding walk leads you out of the park."

Near *Cobham*, is the seat of Mr. Bridges, which stands about half a mile from the public road to Portsmouth, the trees being so very thick intercept the sight of the house from the traveller, until he rises on the common or heath, beyond Cobham, where there is a fine view of it.

The house being situated on an eminence, gives it the command of a prospect over the adjacent fields, with the river Mole beneath, which runs by the side of the garden, and being here extremely broad makes an handsome appearance. By the side of the water is a beautiful slope, with a broad grass walk, planted with shrubs on each side, and a fine room at the end of the walk, which is a sweet retreat from the sun in summer, being shaded by lofty and spreading elms, and presents an agreeable view of the lengthening stream, which renders it cool and pleasant.

In the Parish Church-yard of *Ockham*, which stands almost opposite Lord King's Seat, is a tomb erected over a grave, in which is deposited the body of a Carpenter of this place with the following merry epitaph on the tomb-stone.

JOHN SPONG, died November 17, 1736;

Who many a sturdy oak has laid along,
Fell by death's sure hatchet, here lies Spong:
Posts oft he made, yet ne'er a place could get,
And liv'd by railing, though he was no wit,

Old

Old saw's he had, though no antiquarian,
 And styles corrected, yet was no grammarian,
 Long liv'd he *Ockbam's* premier architect,
 And lasting as his fame, a tomb t' erect,
 In vain we seek an artist, such as he,
 Whose pales and gates were for eternity;
 So here he rests from all life's toils and follies,
 Oh! spare kind heav'n his fellow lab'rer *Hollies*.

A little farther on the left of the road, near *Ripley*, is the seat of Lord King, where the gardens have been greatly improved within these few years, the waters enlarged, and the whole laid open according to the modern taste, and was the house equal to the rest, it would be a very complete villa.

Guildford, the next town in this road, generally called the County Town, as the assizes are held here, and the elections for members of parliament, this town returning two. It is thirty miles from London, and stands on the river Wey, which is made navigable to this place. *Aubrey* produces an opinion, that the name is derived from *Gold* being dropped in the *Ford*; *Gale* conjectures from *Gavel*, a River Island here, and others from an old word *Guild*, or *Gild*, a Society, Brotherhood, &c. which appears to be most probable, especially as there is a building upon a very old foundation, since turned into an alms-house, which seems to have been of this kind.

The ruins of a strong castle here are still to be seen, and some of the remains of a large palace, said to have been left by Alfred, to his nephew Ethelwald, who resided here about eight hundred years ago. *Blount*, in his Account of ancient Tenures, mentions certain lands held here in the year 1234 and 1254, by the tenure of maintaining the king's laundresses, who being called in those times *Meretrices*, some writers have from thence weakly

weakly imagined, that the Lord held his Manor here by being Serjeant of the King's Harlots.

Grosse gives the following account of this castle, of which very little is mentioned in history. The first time it occurs is a little before the Conquest, namely, in the year 1037, when it was the theatre where was acted the following tragedy :

Harold, sur-named Harefoot, being, by the intrigues of Earl Goodwin, acknowledged King of Essex, in opposition to the sense of the people, which favoured Hardicanute, son of the late King, then absent in Denmark, his mother Emma, an ambitious woman, fearful of losing thereby her influence in government, entertained the design of procuring the crown for her son Alfred, or his brother Edward, the fruits of her marriage with King Etheldred.

For this purpose, she obtained permission of Harold to send for her two sons from Normandy, whom she had not seen since her second marriage. Goodwin, who was a man of great sagacity, soon perceived her intentions, although, to prevent suspicion, she pretended to be totally occupied at Winchester in works of devotion, he, therefore, determined to get these princes into his hands, and, for this, persuaded the King to send them an invitation to spend a few days at his court. This invitation puzzled Emma, who saw the risque of trusting them with a man whose interest it was to destroy them ; but, on the other hand, hoping by their presence at court, to form a party amongst the nobility, without which she could not entertain the least hopes of success in her machinations ; she therefore embraced what she thought a medium between the two extremes ; this was, to suffer one son to go, and detain the other with her, under some specious pretence, hoping, that in case Harold harboured any bad design, he would defer it till
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he had both the brothers in his power. Alfred accordingly fet out, attended by a large retinue of Normans.

Goodwin had so contrived it, that the reception of this prince was deputed to his care; he accordingly met him at Guild-down, near this place, with all the resemblance of respect and honourable treatment, brought him to Guildford castle, under pretence of refreshment; there he throwed off the mask, Alfred was immediately seized, conducted to Ely, and after his eyes were put out, and shut up in a monastery for life, his attendants, by order of Goodwin, were tortured with great cruelty, and afterwards twice decimated; that is, out of every ten nine were killed, and only the tenth saved, and this was again repeated on the wretched survivors of the first slaughter. Six hundred Normans, it is said, were thus put to death.

Brompton mentions a hellish kind of torture used here; the same that was afterwards practised in the Irish massacre, in 1641, which was the ripping up the bellies of some of those people, and tying one end of their bowels to a post, made them run round that post till all their entrails were wound upon it. For the honour of humanity, this story of Goodwin's perfidy and cruelty does not remain uncontroverted, being not only differently related by some authors, but absolutely contradicted by William of Malmesbury.

This castle stands to the south of the high street, on an eminence, over-looking and within a hundred and fifty yards of the river Wey; but is commanded towards the south by a hill, which at a small distance is higher than the top of the building. From the foundation of many walls, as well as several soutterains in the town, it is evident this was once a very extensive building. Two of these are remarkable; one, the cellar of the Angel,
on

on the north side of the high street, where there are several arches and pillars: the other that of a private house, on the south side of the same street; it is a low vault about five feet high, supported by several strong columns, from which branch out arches, crossing in different directions, all built of square chalk.

The part of the castle now remaining was the keep: it is nearly square on each side, measuring on the outside forty-four, and its height seventy feet; the walls, which are of chalk, cased on the outside with sand-stone and flint, are ten feet thick; in them are cavities, which shew the remains of several apartments; the window cases are formed some with stone, others with brick, said to be Roman. These windows being near the top, the truth or falsehood of this assertion cannot be ascertained. On the walls of what was the second story, are several rude figures, deeply scratched in the chalk, representing a crucifixion, St. Christopher carrying Christ, a King or Bishop, lying at full length, under a Gothic canopy, and a square Saxon pilaster. Whether these were done (as tradition relates) by a noble person confined here, or are the work of some wag to deceive the painful antiquary, I will not take upon me to determine.

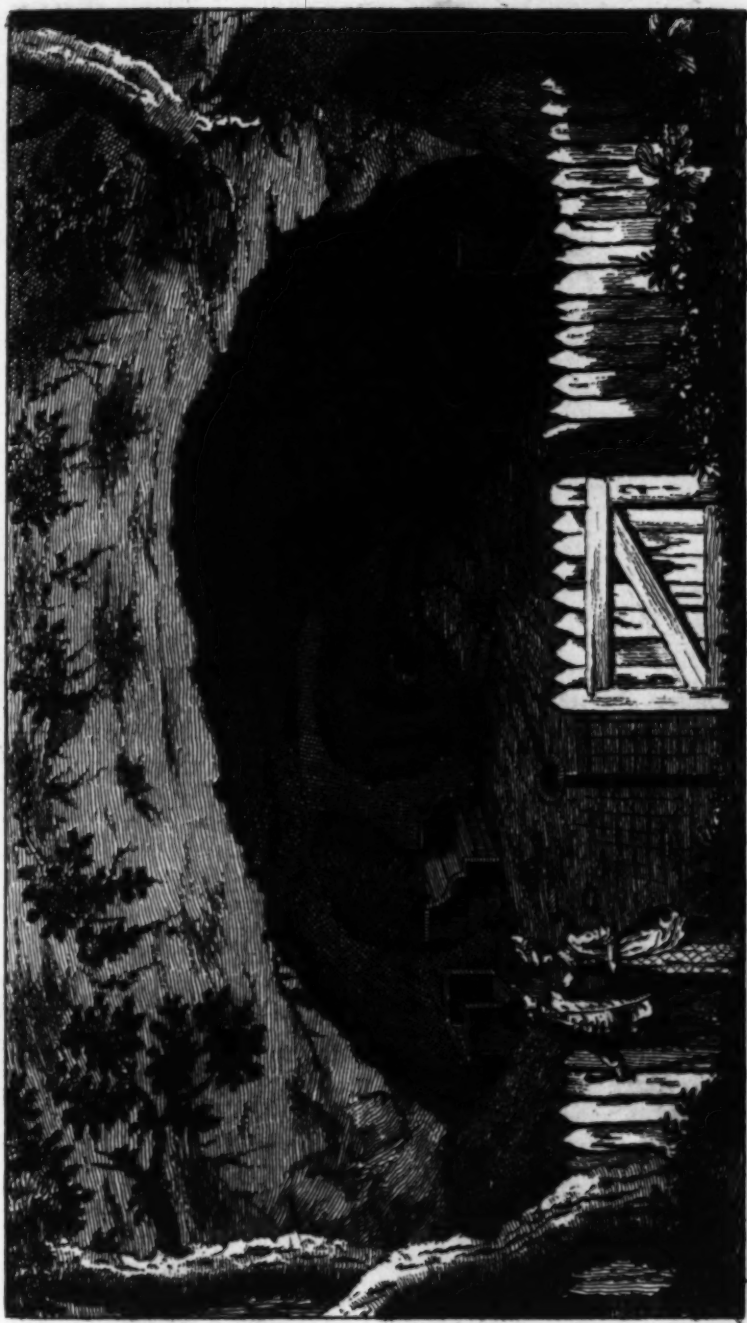
The roof of this building was taken off about an hundred and fifty years ago, being then much decayed. This circumstance is related by an inhabitant of Guildford, whose grandfather saw it done, being then about ten or twelve years of age. On the eastermost part of the south side, is a small machicolation: on the west side, leading to Castle-street, is still remaining an ancient gate, which has a groove for a herse, or portcullis: adjoining to this, and hereabouts, are several scattered pieces of wall.

In the chalky cliff, on which the castle stands, about two hundred yards south-west of that building, is a large cavern, or rather suit of caverns; the entrance is near Quarry-street, facing towards the west, from whence there is a small descent into a cave, about forty-five feet long, twenty wide, and nine or ten high; near the entrance on either hand, are two lower passages, which when I saw them, were nearly closed up by the fragments of fallen chalk; but according to a plan made by Mr. *Bunce*, a stone-mason, 1763, that on the north-side stretches towards the north-west seventy-five feet, opening by degrees from two to twelve feet; from this passage, on the north-east side, run five chambers, or cavities of different sizes, the least being seventy and the largest one hundred feet in length; their breadths are likewise various, but all widen gradually from their entrance, the biggest before-mentioned, from two to twenty-two feet.

On the south side of the entrance, as I have before observed, is another passage, which opens into a large cave, shaped somewhat like a carpenter's square, or the letter L, the angle pointing due south, its breadth upwards of thirty, and the length of its two sides taken together, above one hundred and twenty feet; the height of these excavations is not mentioned, neither is there any section annexed to the plan; for what purpose these places could be formed is not easy to guess; if only for the chalk, the workmen were bad œconomists of their labour.

A variety of ridiculous stories are told by the common people concerning this place, which according to custom, is by them held to be a subterraneous passage leading to the castle.

The upper church of Guildford, called Trinity church, fell down on the twenty-third of April 1740, not long before, it being very ancient; seven hundred and fifty pounds were expended upon it for repair;



Mother Sullam's Hole, near Darnham, Surrey.



repair; the Sunday before it fell, there was service performed in it, and workmen were employed in taking down the bells, who providentially received no hurt, they having quitted the spot about a quarter of an hour before; three bells had been taken down, and the other three fell with the steeple, and crushed the body of the church, though the steeple received but little damage by the fall. It has since been rebuilt of brick.

Here is a free-school founded here by King Edward VI. and an alms-house by *George Abbot*, Archbishop of Canterbury, who endowed it with lands of three hundred pounds a year value, of which he ordered one hundred pounds to be employed in setting the poor to work, and the remainder for the maintenance of a master, twelve brethren and eight sisters, who are each to have two shillings and six-pence a week. It is said the occasion of this charity was to atone for his accidentally killing a man.

This town being a great thoroughfare, enjoys a considerable portion of trade, but it had formerly so great a manufacture for cloth, that many considerable estates were raised here by it, for the Archbishop before-mentioned, his brother *Robert Abbot*, Bishop of Sarum, and Sir *Maurice Abbot*, Lord-Mayor of London, were the sons of a clothier here; there are some remains of the clothing trade still about this part of the county, which however small, is of some service in assisting the poor hereabouts, who are generally cottagers, living chiefly by the commons and heaths, were the lands are but indifferent.

The town is a corporation, which had its first charter from King Henry I. and the second from Henry VII. it is governed by a Mayor, Recorder, seven Magistrates, and sixteen Bailiffs. Near the town is a fine circular course for horse-racing, King
William

William having founded a plate of one hundred guineas here.

From Guildford there is an ascent called *St. Catharine's Hill*, where a fair is held every year; on the top of it the gallows is fixed, so extremely conspicuous, that the people from the high street may sit at their shop-doors, and see the criminals executed. Here is also the remains of an ancient chapel, situated on the summit of the hill, so as to be seen at a considerable distance every way. It is called *St. Catharine's Chapel*. The materials with which it was built, are a sort of tile, which when broken, has the appearance of iron within; and the cement which joins these tiles is now so hard, as scarce to be penetrated with the strongest instrument. The outside walls are now only remaining.

On the left hand of the road, near Guildford, is *Martha's Hill*, called in some ancient writings, *Martyr's Hill*, of which the present name is therefore supposed to be a corruption. On the top of it is a chapel, but we have no account of its foundation. It was probably erected by some lord of the manor of Chilworth, which lies at the foot of it, and to the inhabitants of which it serves as a parish church.

Near *Clandon*, on the left of Guildford, is a noble edifice, the seat of Lord *Onslow*. It is built after an Italian model; the gardens are beautiful, and in the modern taste. It has plenty of good water, and commands a delightful prospect over a large country as far as Windsor Park. You look up to the house from the road by a grand avenue, and presents to the view of the traveller, as fine a seat as any in this part of the county.

Here are many other handsome villas in this neighbourhood too numerous to particularize, there being scarce a town between Guildford and Epsom, but what can boast of a handsome seat or two.

Gedalming

Godalming is about thirty-four miles from London: its name signifies *God's-Alms*, it being supposed to have been given by the Lady Goda or Godiva, to some religious houses. It is a corporation whose charter some say, was granted by King Edward III. but according to others, by Queen Elizabeth. The chief manufacture carried on in this town is stocking weaving; the best whited brown paper is said to be made here, and that the manufacture was set up in the reign of King James I.

About one hundred and fifty years ago, *Richard Wyatt*, of Chelmsford, Esq. built and endowed an hospital here for ten old men.

The small pox made such havock among the inhabitants here in the year 1739, that upwards of five hundred persons were carried off, by that terrible distemper in the space of three months.

This town is noted likewise for that infamous impostress, *Mary Tafts*, who puzzled the heads of both young and old for a long time, amusing and perplexing statesmen, physicians, anatomists, and other credulous persons, both learned and unlearned, with her infamous productions of rabbits, &c.

From Guildford, a road strikes off to the west leading to *Farnham*, forty-one miles from London. This is a very large and populous market-town, standing upon the river *Lodden*, and is supposed to have derived its name from the quantity of fern that once grew hereabouts. Here was formerly one of the greatest markets for corn in England, which has since greatly dwindled; but the plantations of hops, which are so abundant here, and so well managed, amply supplies the loss of their sale for wheat.

The culture of hops is such a vast improvement, that hop-grounds lett here from three to nine pounds

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an acre, which last price is very great; the labour attending them they reckon at three pounds ten shillings an acre *per annum*, and the poles, which cost from twelve to twenty-two shillings a hundred, last four or five years, and twenty-six hundreds are requisite for an acre. They consider twelve hundred weight a middling crop, and the average price at six or seven pounds per hundred weight, a circumstance which proves the vast improvement of this culture.

To the north of Farnham is the *Castle*, which overlooks the town, and is one of the mansions of the Bishop of Winchester. It was built by *Henry de Blois*, brother of King *Stephen*, and Bishop of Winchester, who died *anno 1171*. On the eleventh of June in 1216, *Lewis*, the Dauphin got possession of it, but it was shortly after recovered by King Henry the Third, and in the course of the Barons wars in that reign, levelled with the ground. It was however, afterwards rebuilt by the Bishop of Winchester, and in the time of the civil wars was garrisoned and commanded by Sir *John Denham* for the King, but he retiring to his majesty at Oxford, deserted it, and *Waller*, the parliament's general, seized it, and blowed it up the twenty-ninth of December 1642. On the fourth of July 1648, the commons gave particular directions to render it indefensible.

At the restoration, Doctor *George Morley*, Bishop of Worcester, being translated to the see of Winchester, raised a considerable sum of money, by leasing out Waltham Park, and by the tenements built out of his palace at Southwark; this, with much more from his private fortune, he laid out in purchasing Winchester-house at Chelsea, and repairing his other episcopal mansions. In particular, he expended eight thousand pounds in repairing or rebuilding this castle, which was executed without the least taste and judgment, the present house being neither handsome nor convenient. It stands a little

to the southward of the ruins of the keep of the old castle, is built of brick, and probably was patched up out of some of the old offices; the park, in which it is situated, is well stocked with deer, and being situated upon an eminence, commands a delightful prospect, but being open, it is extremely bleak.

About two miles east of Farnham, is More Park, once the seat of Sir *William Temple*, whose heart is deposited in a silver-box, under a sun-dial in his garden, according to his direct orders in his will. The house is surrounded on every side with hills being placed in a valley, with a stream running through the gardens.

Near this place is *Mother Ludlam's Hole*, which is under an high cliff, and deserves a place in this work, as being not only a natural curiosity worthy of notice, but also rendered respectable for being a favourite retirement of Sir *William Temple*; though this is neither a piece of antiquity, nor entirely a work of art, yet as we should be deemed guilty of an error to omit it, we shall give the most credible account of it we can meet with.

“Mother Ludlam's hole lies half way down the west side of a sandy hill, covered with wood, towards the southernmost end of More Park, and is near three miles south of Farnham, and about a quarter of a mile north-east of the ruins of *Waverley Abbey*, which were, when standing, visible from it. More Park, though small, affords several scenes most beautifully wild and romantic.

“This cavern seems to have been originally the work of nature, formed by a rill of water, which probably forced itself a kind of channel, afterwards enlarged by art. At the entrance it is about eight feet high, and fourteen or fifteen broad, but decreases in height and breadth, till it becomes so low as to be passable only by a person crawling on their hands and knees; farther on, it is said to heighten.

Its

Its depth is undoubtedly considerable, but much exaggerated by the fabulous reports of the common people. It does not go straight forwards, but at some distance from the entrance turns toward the left hand or north.

The bottom is paved, and the widest part separated by a marble frame, with a passage for a small stream of clear water, which rising within, is conducted by a marble trough through the centre of the pavement into a circular basin of the same materials, having an iron ladle chained to it, for the convenience of drinking. From hence it is carried out by other troughs to the declivity of the hill, where, falling down seven steps, it is collected in a small reservoir; four stone benches, placed two on each side, seem to invite the visitor to that meditation for which this place is so admirably calculated. The gloomy and uncertain depth of the receding grotto, the gentle murmurs of the rill, and the beauty of the prospect, seen through the dark arched entrance, shagged with weeds and the roots of trees, all conspire to excite solemn contemplation, and to fill the soul with a rapturous admiration of the works of the great creator.

This place derives its name from a popular story, which makes it formerly the residence of a white witch, called *Mother Ludlum* or *Ludlow*; not one of those malevolent beings mentioned in the *Dæmonologie*, a repetition of whose pranks, as chronicled by *Glanvill*, *Baxter* and *Cotton Mather*, erects the hair and closes the circle of the circling rustics round the village fire. This old lady neither killed hogs, rode on broom-staves, nor made children vomit nails and crooked pins; crimes for which many an old woman has been sentenced to death by judges, who, however they may be vilified in this sceptical age, thereby certainly cleared themselves

selves from the imputation of being either wizards or conjurers.

On the contrary, Mother Ludlam, instead of injuring, when properly invoked, kindly assisted her poor neighbours, by lending them such culinary utensils and household furniture as they wanted for particular occasions. The business was thus transacted; The petitioner went into the cave at midnight, turned three times round, and thrice repeated aloud, "Pray Mother Ludlam lend me such a thing, (naming the utensil) and I will return it within two days." He or she then retired, and coming again early the next morning, found at the entrance the requested moveable. This intercourse continued a long time, till once, a person not returning a large cauldron, according to the stipulated time, madam Ludlam was so irritated at this want of punctuality, that she refused to take it back, when afterwards left in the cavern; and from that time to this has not accommodated any one with the most trifling loan. The story adds, that the cauldron was carried to Weaverley Abbey, and after the dissolution of that monastery deposited in Frensham-church.

In fact, a monstrous cauldron was kept in the vestry of that church, according to *Salmon*, who seems to hint, that some such ridiculous story was told concerning it as that above recited. "The great cauldron (says he) which lay in the vestry beyond the memory of man, was no more brought thither from Weaverley, as report goes, than by the faries. It need not raise any man's wonder for what use it was, there having been many in England, till very lately to be seen, as well as very large spits, which were given for entertainments of the parish, at the wedding of poor maids; so was in some places a sum of money charged upon lands for them, and a house for them to dwell in for a

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year

year after marriage. If these utensils of hospitality which drew the neighbourhood to contribute upon so laudable an occasion, had committed treason, as the property of a convent, they had not been too heavy to be carried off."

A little to the north of Farnham, is

Bagshot-heath, through which runs the great road from London, leading by Stanes-bridge and Egham, into the west. It was formerly joined to the Forest of Windsor, and called by the name of the Great Forest of Windsor. There was formerly a royal house here with a park, which was laid open after the civil wars, and its convenient situation for hunting often brought King James and King Charles I. into this neighbourhood.

This heath is at present a horrid barren desert, yet, by some of the inclosures, which have been made upon it, and which produce good corn and grass, it is judged to be capable of great improvement.

On the edge of this heath are several seats of the nobility: the late Earl of Arran's consists of wood walks and other plantations, in a large inclosure, upwards of two miles in circumference, and the park which runs on the other side of the house, is upwards of three miles. This estate belongs to the crown, and at the death of the Earl of Arran, was granted to the Earl of Albermarle.

About four miles from Bagshot, and three from Wokenham, is

East Hampstead Park, late in the possession of William Trumbull, Esq. son of Sir William Trumbull, who was Secretary of State to King William the Third, and afterwards of the late Honourable Martin Sandys, second son of Samuel Lord Sandys, who married Mary his daughter and heiress. This was a hunting seat of King Henry VIII. and to this house his Queen retired from the court. This is an extremely agreeable spot,

spot, and possesses the beauties of a park, a farm, and a garden, at one and the same time; and and though the soil here is as bad as on any part of the forest, yet it has been so greatly improved that good crops of hay and corn have been produced from it.

In order to render our survey compleat, we shall return to London along the borders of the river Thames in this county, which is most richly lined with populous villages, and many noble and handsome seats belonging to the nobility and gentry, which are so exceedingly numerous, and filled with such abundance of beauties, that a minute description of each would swell our work beyond the proposed bounds, we, therefore, in our excursion along the banks of this noble stream, shall point out only those places and structures which are most worthy the attention of the curious.

At *Egham*, which has a wooden bridge from Stanes in Middlesex, mentioned before, page 135, is the famous Run-mead, or Rumney-mead, on the north side of the town, where King John signed that bulwark of the Liberties of England, Magna Charta. Here are several good inns in this town, as it is a great thoroughfare on the west road. Here is a good alms-house built of brick, and endowed by Baron Denham, Surveyor of the Works in the reign of Charles the Second, for the maintenance of five poor old women of this parish, who have each a different orchard, and were to have, by his will, new gowns every Christmas, and stockings and shoes twice a year; but they were not to receive any relief from the parish.

Sir John Denham, son to the former, who lived in this town, and also at Cooper's Hill, which he has celebrated in a beautiful poem, that is like to stand longer than the family monuments, or the
applause

applause of that loyalty for which he sacrificed his estate.

Chertsey, another market-town, where is a bridge over the Thames. This town is noted for the burial place of Henry the VIth. from whence his bones were afterwards removed to Windsor, by Henry the VIIth. The celebrated poet, Mr. Abraham Cowley, fixed his retreat here, from the bustles of a court, and enjoyed the more serene and calm pleasures of a country life, the happiness of which he beautifully describes in one of his poems, as he has in another his hearty abhorrence of the base servility of a court life, in that well known distich,

Were I to curse the man I hate,
Attendance and dependance be his fate.

This town has a handsome Free-school, built by Sir William Perkins. It was formerly a Mitred Abbey, and had a seat in Parliament. Its foundation is placed as high as 666.

At *Coway-Stakes*, near this place, Julius Cæsar is said to have passed the Thames.

About a mile beyond Weybridge, is

Oatlands, an elegant seat belonging to the Earl of Lincoln, situated in the midst of a noble park. The gardens are laid out in the modern taste, and contain about a hundred and fifty acres, divided by a fine canal; beyond a beautiful aviary in the garden, is a fine green-house, with ranges of orange-trees, and other exotics; having passed the green-house, you are pleasingly surprized with the melody of various birds, from another aviary, which is concealed by the trees, but the principal beauty of this garden, consists in a most superb and magnificent terras, a mile and a half long, and lately turfed, and planted with clumps of trees
at

at convenient distances ; this terras, which is not inferior either in beauty or extent, to that at Windsor, is of a great height, and commands a most delightful view of the river Thames, and a noble prospect of the country as far as the eye can reach.

Not far from the above seat, is that of the Earl of Portmore's, which was beautified by the Countess of Dorchester, in the reign of King James the Second. Here is a fine walk planted with *Acacia* trees. This seat is remarkable for having two navigable rivers running through the garden. A farm, shaded with thick lofty trees, stands near one of the rivers. It consists of a parlour and a chamber over it, which projects with a large bow window, and which affords a most delightful view ; there is also a very noble cascade, over-shadowed with two weeping willows, of extraordinary beauty ; there are also some beautiful exotics, particularly the tulip-tree in full blow, the first that ever bloomed in England.

Mr. *Southcote's House*, called *Woburn Farm*, is a small pleasant seat, which is situated so happily, that scarce a spot in the garden but affords a different prospect, though it has not the advantage of water, yet the eye commands different views of the river, and Walton and Chertsey Bridges are both seen at once, which, in some measure compensates for the want of water, for the river Thames winding in an agreeable manner, and having very often large west country barges sailing on it, affords, as it were, an entertaining picture of moving objects. The lower part is terminated with light pretty buildings.

As we have mentioned *Walton Bridge*, we shall here take an opportunity to describe that noble work, the sight of which will fully repay the trouble of visiting it.

In the year 1746-7, the late Samuel Dicker, Esq. obtained from parliament an act to erect a bridge at Walton, which was finished in August 1750.

The Bridge consists of four stone piers, between which are three large truss-arches of beams and joists of wood, strongly bound together with mortices, iron pins, and cramps. Under these three large arches the water constantly runs, besides which, there are five other arches of brick-work on each side, to make the ascent and descent more easy; but there is seldom water under any of them, except in great floods; and four of them on the Middlesex side are stopped up, being on an high ground, whither the floods never reach.

The middle arch, when viewed by the river side, affords an agreeable prospect of the country, beautifully diversified with wood and water, which are seen through it to a considerable distance. The prodigious compass of this great arch, to a person below, occasions an uncommon sensation of awe and surprize, as it appears like an over-stretch, or an extreme; and his wonder and attention are raised when he proceeds to take notice, that all the timbers are in a falling inclination, (there not being discoverable one upright piece) and considers also the very small dimensions of the piers that support the whole.

In passing up the bridge, when you come past the brick-work, the vacant interstices between the timbers yield a variety of prospects at every step, which, when at the centre are seen to great advantage; but though each side of the road is very well secured by the timber and rails, to the height of eight feet, yet, as it affords only a parapet of wide lattice work, and the apertures even with the eye are large enough to admit the passage of any person to go through, provided he climbs, or is lifted up, and as the water is seen at every opening

ing at a great depth below, those who are not used to such views, cannot approach the side without some little apprehension.

Those openings between the braces and rails might have been easily closed with boards, but they are left so to admit a free passage for the wind and air, to keep the timber more sound, and that the least decay might be at once perceived and repaired.

Richmond, is a very neat and populous village, and by reason of the beauty of the place, has long been the residence of our Kings, and often the nursery of their children; it is reckoned the finest village in the British dominions, and is termed the *Frescati* of England. It was chosen, says *Camden*, by the Kings of England, for their royal seat, and for it's splendor or shining, called *Sbeene*. At this place King Edward III. died of grief, for the loss of his heroic son the Black Prince. Here also died Anne, wife of Richard II. who first taught the English women their present way of riding on horse-back, whereas formerly they used to cross the saddle like men; the King is said to have been so affected by her death, that he neglected, and even abhorred the house, and, as some say, defaced and even levelled it with the ground, but King Henry V. beautified it with new buildings. In the reign of Henry VII. (from whom the village took its present name of *Richmond*, from that country in Normandy, whereof he had been Earl) it was afterwards quite burnt down by a most lamentable fire, but he just began to build it with greater beauty, and erected a library, when he died here; about ninety years after, in the year 1603, his grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth also died here.

This place was pretty much neglected by the princes of the race of the Stuarts, and parcelled out

out by King William into private tenements; but his late Majesty, who took great delight here, made vast improvements in the palace, while her Majesty, the late Queen Caroline, diverted herself at her Royal Dairy-house, in her beautiful hermitage, Merlin's Cave, and in the other charming improvements which she made to the park and gardens of this delightful place. His present Majesty has likewise made great additions and vast improvements to this agreeable spot.

The town runs up the hill above one mile from the village of East Shene, to the New Park, with gardens declining all the way to the Thames, the tide whereof reaches just to the village, which is sixty miles from the mouth of it, a greater distance than the tide is carried by any other river in Europe.

On the ascent of the hill, are the wells of purging mineral water, and on the top of it is a most beautiful prospect of the Thames, and of the fine seats on the banks of it. There is an Alms-house built by Duppa, Bishop of Winchester, in the reign of King Charles the Second, for the support of ten poor widows, pursuant to a vow he had made in the King's exile, as is mentioned in the inscription over the gate; there is another Alms-house, endowed with above a hundred pounds a year, which has, since its foundation, been considerably augmented by John Michell, Esq. Here are also two Charity-schools, one for fifty boys, and the other for fifty girls.

There is a stately house in the green, among a number of other pretty seats, formerly Sir Charles Hedges', afterwards Sir Matthew Decker's, in the gardens thereof is said to be the longest and highest hedge of holly that was ever seen, with several other hedges of ever-greens, vistas cut through woods, grotto's,

grottos, fountains, a fine canal, a decoy, summer-house, and hot-houses, in which the Indian fruit, called Ananas, was first brought to maturity.

In the New Park, besides the late Queen's-house, is a pretty little hunting seat of the late Earl of Orford's, and a little hill cast up, called King Henry's Mount, from which there is a prospect of six counties, including the City of London, and also Windsor Castle, which it fourteen miles off.

Though the palace of Richmond is unsuitable to the dignity of a royal monarch, yet as the gardens are extremely fine, they merit peculiar notice, having an agreeable wildness, and a pleasing regularity, which cannot fail to charm those who can admire the beauties of nature.

On entering these walks you are conducted to the Dairy, a neat, but low brick building, to which there is an ascent by a flight of steps; in the front is a handsome angular pediment. The walls on the inside are covered with stucco, and the house is furnished suitable to a royal dairy, the utensils for the milk being of the most beautiful china.

Passing by the side of a canal, and through a grove of trees, the temple presents itself to view, situated on a mount. The top of the circular dome is crowned with a ball, and it is supported by columns of the Tuscan order, with a circular altar in the middle, and to this temple there is an ascent by very steep steps.

Returning by the dairy, and crossing the gravel-walk, which leads from the palace to the river, you enter a wood, by a walk terminated by the Queen's Pavilion, a neat elegant structure, wherein is seen a beautiful chimney-piece, taken from a design in the addition of Palladio, and a model of a palace intended to be built in this place.

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In another part of the wood is the Duke's summer-house, which has a lofty arched entrance, and the roof rising to a point is terminated by a ball.

On leaving the wood you come to a Summer-house on the terrace a light small building, with very large and lofty windows, to give a better view of the country to that noble seat, called Sion-house. In this edifice are two good pictures, representing the taking of Vigo, by the Duke of Ormond.

Passing through a Labyrinth, you see near a pond, Merlin's cave, a thatched Gothic building; within which are the following figures in wax: Merlin, an ancient British enchanter; the excellent and learned Queen Elizabeth, and a Queen of the Amazons. Here is also a Library, consisting of a well chosen collection of the works of modern authors, neatly bound in vellum.

On leaving this edifice, which has an antique and venerable appearance, you come to a large oval of about five hundred feet in diameter, called the Forest Oval, and turning from hence you have a view of the hermitage, a grotesque building, which seems as if it had stood many hundred years, though it was built by order of her late Majesty. It has three arched doors, and the middle one, which projects forwards, is adorned with a kind of ruinous angular pediment: the stones of the whole edifice appear as if rudely laid together, and the venerable look of the whole is improved by the thickness of the solemn grove behind, and the little turret on the top with a bell, to which you may ascend by a winding walk. The inside is in form of an octagon with niches, in which are the Busts of the following truly great men, Sir Isaac Newton, John Locke, Esq. Mr. Woolaston, and Dr. Samuel Clarke, and in a kind of alcove is the truly honourable Mr. Robert Boyle.

Leaving

Leaving this seat of contemplation, you pass through fields cloathed with grass; through corn-fields; and a wild ground, interspersed with broom and furze, which affords excellent shelter for hares and pheasants, and here are great numbers of the latter very tame. From this pleasing variety, you come to an amphitheatre formed by young elms, and a pleasing wilderness, through which you pass or the forest walk, which extends about half a mile, and then passing through a small wilderness, you leave the gardens.

At the extremity of the garden, on the north-east, is another house that belonged to her Majesty, and near it the house of his late Royal Highness Frederic Prince of Wales, which is adorned with stucco on the inside. Opposite the Prince's house is the Princess Amelia's, built by a Dutch Architect, the outside of which is painted.

Leaving Richmond, the next town we come to in our way to London, is

Kew, which is situated upon the Thames, with a bridge cross the Thames opposite to Kew-green. The two piers, and their dependent arches, on each side next the shore, are built of brick and stone; the intermediate arches, which are seven, are entirely of wood. The centre arch is fifty feet wide, and the road over the bridge is thirty feet wide.

Several of the nobility and gentry erected a Chapel of ease, on a piece of ground that was given for that purpose, by the late Queen Anne. Here the late Mr. Molineux had a fine seat on the green, which became the residence of the late Prince and Princess Dowager of Wales, who made great improvements both in the house and gardens, a description of which is given by Sir Charles Chambers, Architect to the King, in the following words;

“The

“The principal court of the palace is in the middle; the stable court is on the left-hand; and the kitchen courts on the right. As you enter the house from the principal court, a vestibule leads to the great hall, which occupies two stories in height, and receives its light from windows in the upper story. It is furnished with full length portraits, representing King William III. Queen Mary, the present King of Prussia, the late Emperor of Germany, the present Hereditary Prince of Brunswick, the late Elector of Cologne, and the famous Lord Treasurer Burleigh; besides which, there is a very good hunting piece, by Mr. Wootton, wherein are represented his Royal Highness Frederick Prince of Wales, Lord Baltimore, Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Boston, Col. Pelham, and several of his Royal Highness's attendants. In this room are likewise two large vases of statuary marble, on which are cut in basso relievo the four seasons of the year.

From the hall a passage leads to the garden; and on the right hand of this passage is the Princess's common apartment, consisting of an anti-chamber, a drawing-room, a cabinet, and a gallery, with waiting-rooms, and other conveniencies, for the attendants. The anti-chamber is hung with tapestry; and over the doors are two portraits, the one of the late Lord Cobham, the other of the late Earl of Chesterfield.

The drawing-room is likewise hung with tapestry. Over the doors are the portraits of his Majesty King George I. and his Royal Highness Frederick Prince of Wales. There is also another picture in the room with three heads, being the portraits of their Royal Highnesses the late Princess of Orange, and the Princesses Amelia and Caroline.

The cabinet is fixed with pannels of Japan; the ceiling is gilt; which together with the chimney-piece,

piece, was designed by the late ingenious Mr. Kent.

The gallery, with all its furniture, is entirely executed from the designs of the same gentleman. The colour of the waincoting is blue, and the ornaments are gilt. Over the chimney is the portrait of the late Princess of Orange, in a riding dress; and on each side of it is a very fine picture, by the celebrated Mr. Wootton, the one representing a stag at bay, and the other a return from the chase; the scene of both is Windsor Forest, and the persons represented are the late Prince of Wales, the late Duke of Marlborough, Mr. Spencer, the Duke of Chandos, the Marquis of Powis, Lord Jersey, Lord Boston, Lord Baltimore, the Colonels Lumley, Schutz and Madden, Mr. Scott, Mr. Bloodworth, and several attendants.

On the left of the passage which leads to the garden are the apartments of the bed-chamber women. In their drawing-room is a very large collection of portraits of illustrious persons of both sexes; none of them very finely painted, yet curious and very entertaining. The cieling is executed from a design of Mr. Kent's; as are likewise the cieling, chimney-piece, and all other parts of their dining-room.

The cieling of the great stair-case was designed by Mr. Kent. The principal floor is distributed into one state-apartment for her Royal Highness, and into lodging rooms for her children and their attendants. The state apartments consist of a gallery, a drawing-room, a dressing-room, an antichamber, a bed-room and closets.

The walls of the gallery are adorned with grotesque paintings, and children in theatrical dresses, by the late Mr. John Ellis. The chimney-piece and all the furniture are from designs of Mr. Kent,
and

and on the piers between the windows are four large painted looking-glasses from China.

The cieling of the drawing-room was designed, and I believe painted, by Mr. Kent, with grotesque ornaments, in party-colours and gold. The center compartment represents the story of Leda. The chimney-piece, the tables, glass-frames, and all the furniture, were designed by the same ingenious artist. The room is hung with green silk, and furnished with a very pretty collection of pictures, by Domenichino, Paul Veronese, Albano, Claude Lorrain, Pietro da Cortona, Cornelius Johnson, Bassano, Berghem, Borgognone, &c.

The cieling, furniture, and chimney-piece of the dressing-room, were designed by Mr. Kent. The room is richly furnished with Japan cabinets, and a great variety of curious works in Dresden porcelain, amber, ivory, &c. and there are also in it two large pictures, the one by Dupan, representing the children of the royal family at play; and the other the Princess of Wales, with his present Majesty, the Duke of York, and the Princess Augusta, all in their infancy, attended by Lord Boston, Lady Archibald Hamilton, and Mrs. Herbert.

Her Royal Highness's Bed-chamber is hung with tapestry. The cieling and chimney-piece were designed by Mr. Kent.

The antichamber and closets contain nothing remarkable, except an hydrometer, of a very curious construction, invented and executed by the learned and ingenious Mr. Pullein, one of her Royal Highness's Chaplains.

THE GARDENS OF KEW

are not very large, nor is their situation by any means advantageous, as it is low, and commands no prospects. Originally the ground was one continued

tinued dead flat; the soil was in general barren, and without either wood or water. With so many disadvantages, it was not easy to produce any thing even tolerable in gardening; but princely munificence, guided by a director, equally skilled in cultivating the earth, and in the politer arts, (Lord Bathurst, we suppose,) overcame all difficulties. What was once a desert is now an Eden. The judgment, with which art hath been employed to supply the defects of nature, and to cover its deformities, hath very justly gained universal admiration, and reflects uncommon lustre on the refined taste of the noble contriver; as the vast sums which have been expended to bring this arduous undertaking to perfection, do infinite honour to the generosity and benevolence of the illustrious possessor, who with so liberal a hand distributed the superfluity of her treasures in works which serve at once to adorn the country, and to nourish its industrious inhabitants.

On entering the garden from the palace, and turning towards the left hand, the first building which appears, is

THE ORANGERY, OR GREEN HOUSE.

The design is mine, and it was built under my inspection in the year 1761. The front extends one hundred and forty-five feet; the room is one hundred and forty-two feet long, thirty feet wide, and twenty-five high. In the back shade are two furnaces to heat flues, laid under the pavement of the orangery, which are found very useful, and indeed very necessary in times of hard frost.

What is called

THE TEMPLE OF the SUN,

is situated in an open grove near the orangery, and in the way to the physic-garden. Its figure is of the
circular

circular peripterous kind, but without an attic; and there is a particularity in the entablature, of which the hint is taken from one of the temples of Balbec. The order is Corinthian, the columns fluted, and the entablature fully enriched. Over each column on the frieze are basso relievos, representing lyres and sprigs of laurel; and round the upper part of the cell are suspended festoons of fruits and flowers. The inside of the cell forms a salon richly finished and gilt. In the center of its cove is represented the sun; and, on the frieze, in twelve compartments, surrounded with branches of laurel, are represented the signs of the zodiac in basso relievo. This building was begun and finished under my inspection in the year 1761.

THE PHYSIC OR EXOTIC GARDEN

was not begun before the year 1760; so that it cannot possibly be yet in its perfection: but, from the great botanical learning of him who is the principal manager, and the assiduity with which all curious productions are collected from every part of the globe, without any regard to expence, it may be concluded, that, in a few years, this will be the amplest and best collection of curious plants in Europe. For the cultivation of these plants I have built several stoves; and amongst others a very large one, its extent from east to west being one hundred and fourteen feet; the center is occupied by a bark stove sixty feet long, twenty feet wide, and twenty feet high, exclusive of the tan-pit; and the two ends form two dry stoves, each twenty-five feet long, eighteen feet wide, and twenty feet high.

The dry stoves are furnished with stands for placing pots on, made in the form of steps. They have each three revolutions of flues in the back-wall and one of them hath likewise a flue under the pavement.

The

The bark-stove in the center is heated by four furnaces ; two of these serve to warm the flues under the pavement, and two to warm those in the back-wall, of which there are five revolutions. The flues are all of them nine inches wide, and two feet high. Those in the back-wall are divided from the house by a brick-on-edge wall, and separated from each other by foot-tiles. Between some of them are placed air-pipes, for the introduction of fresh air, which by that means is warmed in its passage, and becomes very beneficial to the plants. The tan-pit is ten feet wide, and three feet six inches deep. It is surrounded on three sides by flues, being separated from them by a fourteen-inch wall. The walks are three feet wide, paved with foot-tiles ; and there is a border before the back-flues twenty inches wide, with a treillage for creepers, placed within six inches of the flues. The roof lights are divided into three heights, and run on casters ; so that they are moved up and down with great ease, from a boarded passage placed over the flues, between the treillage and the back-wall. The front lights slide in grooves. On the outside of the bark-stove, in front, there is a border covered with glass for bulbous roots, which, by the assistance of the flues under the pavement of the stove, flourish very early in the year.

Contiguous to the exotic garden, is

THE FLOWER GARDEN,

of which the principal entrance, with a stand on each side of it for rare flowers, forms one end. The two sides are inclosed with high trees, and the end facing the principal entrance is occupied by an aviary of a vast depth, in which is kept a numerous collection of birds, both foreign and domestic. The parterre is divided by walks into a great number of

N

beds,

beds, in which all kinds of beautiful flowers are to be seen, during the greatest part of the year; and in its center is a bason of water stocked with gold fish.

From the flower-garden a short winding-walk leads to

THE MENAGERIE.

It is of an oval figure: the center is occupied by a large bason of water, surrounded by a walk; and the whole is inclosed by a range of pens, or large cages, in which are kept great numbers of Chinese and Tartarian pheasants, besides many sorts of other large exotic birds. The bason is stocked with such water-fowl as are too tender to live on the lake; and in the middle of it stands a pavilion of an irregular octagon plan, designed by me, in imitation of a Chinese opening, and executed in the year 1760.

Near the Menagerie stands

THE TEMPLE OF BELLONA,

designed and built by me in the year 1760. It is of the prostyle kind; the portico terrastyle Doric; the metopes alternately enriched with helmets and daggers, and vases and pateras. The cell is rectangular, and of a sesquilateral proportion, but closed with an elliptical dome, from which it receives the light.

Passing from the menagerie towards the lake, in a retired solitary walk on the left, is

THE TEMPLE OF THE GOD PAN,

of the monopteros kind; but closed on the side towards the thicket, in order to make it serve for a seat.

seat. It is of the Doric order; the profile imitated from that of the theatre of Marcellus at Rome, and the metopes enriched with ox-sculls and pateras. It was built by me in the year 1758.

Not far from the last-described temple, on an eminence, stands

THE TEMPLE OF EOLUS,

like that of Pan, of the monopteros figure. The order is a composite, in which the Doric is predominant. Within the columns is a large semicircular nich, serving as a seat, which revolves on a pivot, and may with great ease be turned by one hand to any exposition, notwithstanding its size. The temple of solitude is situated very near the south front of the palace.

At the head of the lake, and near the temple of Eolus, stands a Chinese octagon building of two stories, built a good many years ago, I believe, from the designs of Mr. Goupy. It is commonly called

THE HOUSE OF CONFUCIUS.

The lower story consists of one room, and two closets; and the upper story is one little salon, commanding a very pleasant prospect over the lake and gardens. Its walls and cieling are painted with grotesque ornaments, and little historical subjects relating to Confucius, with several transactions of the Christian missions in China. The sofa and chairs were, I believe, designed by Mr. Kent, and their seats and backs are covered with tapestry of the gobelins. In a thicket, near the house of Confucius, is erected the engine which supplies the lake and basons in the gardens with water. It was contrived by Mr. Smeaton, and executed under his direction, in the year 1761. It answers perfectly well, raising,
by

by means of two horses, upwards of three thousand six hundred hogheads of water in twelve hours.

From the house of Confucius a covered close walk leads to a grove, where is placed a semi-octagon seat, designed by Mr. *Kent*. A winding walk, on the right of the grove, leads to an open plain, on one side of which, backed with thickets, on a rising ground, is placed a Corinthian colonade, designed and built by me in the year 1760, and called *The Theatre of Augusta*.

THE TEMPLE OF VICTORY

is the next building which offers itself to view. It stands on a hill, and was built in commemoration of the signal victory obtained on the 1st of August, 1759, near Minden, by the Allied army, under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, over the French army, commanded by the Marshal de Contades.

The figure is the circular peripteros; the order Ionic decastyle, fluted, and richly finished. The frize is adorned with foliages; and round the Attic are suspended festoons of laurel. The cell, which commands a pretty prospect towards Richmond, and likewise over Middlesex, is neatly finished with stucco ornaments. Those in the cieling represent standards and other French trophies. The whole was designed by me, and executed under my inspection, in the year 1759, soon after the above-mentioned battle.

As you pass along from the temple of victory, towards the upper part of the gardens, are seen the ruins of an arch, surrounded with several vestiges of other structures. Its description will be given hereafter.

The upper part of the garden composes a large wilderness; on the border of which stands a mosque building, commonly called

THE

THE ALHAMBRA

consisting of a salon, fronted with a portico of coupled columns, and crowned with a lantern.

On an open space, near the centre of the same wilderness, is erected the tower, commonly called

THE GREAT PAGODA.

It was begun under my direction, in the autumn of the year 1761, and covered in the spring of the year 1762. The design is an imitation of the Chinese TAA. The base is a regular octagon, forty-nine feet in diameter; and the superstructure is likewise a regular octagon on its plan, and in its elevation composed of ten prisms, which form the ten different stories of the building. The lowest of these is twenty-six feet in diameter, exclusive of the portico which surrounds it, and eighteen feet high; the second is five-and-twenty feet in diameter, and seventeen feet high; and all the rest diminish in diameter and height, in the same arithmetical proportion, to the ninth story, which is eighteen feet in diameter, and ten feet high. The tenth story is seventeen feet in diameter, and, with the covering, twenty feet high; and the finishing on the top is seventeen feet high; so that the whole structure, from the base to the top of the fleuron, is one hundred and sixty-three feet. Each story finishes with a projecting roof, after the Chinese manner, covered with plates of varnished iron of different colours; and round each of them there is a gallery inclosed with a rail. All the angles of the roof are adorned with large dragons, being eighty in number, covered with a kind of thin glass of various colours, which produces a most dazzling reflection; and the whole

whole ornament at the top is double gilt. The walls of the building are composed of very hard bricks; the outside of well-coloured and well-matched grey-stocks, neatly-laid, and with such care, that there is not the least crack or fracture in the whole structure, notwithstanding its great height, and the expedition with which it was built. The stair-case which leads to the different stories, is in the centre of the building. The prospects open as you advance in height; and from the top you command an extensive view on all sides, and in some directions upwards of forty miles distance, over a rich and variegated country.

Near the great pagoda, on a rising ground, backed with thickets, stands

THE MOSQUE.

It was designed and built by me in the year 1761. The body of the building consists of an octagon salon in the center, flanked with two cabinets, finishing with one large dome and two small ones. The large dome is crowned with a crescent, and its upright part contains twenty-eight little arches, which give light to the salon. On the three front sides of the central octagon are three doors, giving entrance to the building; over each of which there is an Arabic inscription, in golden characters, extracted from the Alcoran by Dr. Moreton, from whom I had the following explanation, viz,

Ne sit coactio in religione.

Non est Deus ullus præter Deum,

Ne ponatis Deo similitudinem.

The minarets are placed at each end of the principal building. In my design of them, as well as
in

in the whole exterior decoration of the building itself, I have endeavoured to collect the principal particularities of the Turkish architecture. With regard to the interior decoration, I have not so scrupulously adhered to their style in building, but have aimed at something uncommon, and at the same time pleasing. The walls of the cabinet are painted of a rich rose-colour, and those of the salon are straw-coloured. At the eight angles of the room are palm-trees modelled in stucco, painted and varnished with various hues of green, in imitation of nature; which at the top spread and support the dome, represented as formed of reeds bound together with ribbons of silk. The cove is supposed to be perforated, and a brilliant sunny sky appears, finely painted by Mr. Wilson, of Covent Garden, the celebrated landscape painter.

In the way from the mosque towards the palace, there is a Gothic building, designed by Mr. Muntz; the front representing a cathedral.

The Gallery of Antiques was designed by me, and executed in the year 1757.

Continuing your way from the last mentioned building towards the palace, near the banks of the lake, stands

THE TEMPLE OF ARETHUSA,

a small Ionic building of four columns. It was designed and built by me in the year 1758.

Near it there is a bridge thrown over a narrow channel of water, and leading to the island in the lake. The design is, in a great measure, taken from one of Palladio's wooden bridges. It was erected in one night.

In various parts of the garden are erected covered seats, executed from two designs composed by me in the year 1758.

There

There is also erected in the garden of Kew, a Temple designed by me, in commemoration of the present peace. The portico is hexastyle Ionic; the columns fluted; the entablature enriched; and the tympan of the pediment adorned with basso relievos. The cell is in the form of a Latin cross, the ends of which are closed by semicircular sweeps, wherein are niches to receive statues. It is richly finished with stucco ornaments, allusive to the occasion on which it was erected.

THE RUIN AT KEW

was designed and built by me in the year 1759, in order to make a passage for carriages and cattle over one of the principal walks of the garden. My intention was to imitate a Roman antiquity, built of brick, with an incrustation of stone. The design is a triumphal arch, originally with three apertures, but two of them now closed up, and converted into rooms, to which you enter by doors made in the sides of the principal arch. The soffit of the principal arch is enriched with coffers and roses, and both the fronts of the structure are rustic. The north front is confined between two rocks, over-grown with briars and other wild plants, and topped with thickets, among which are seen several columns, and other fragments of buildings, and at a little distance beyond the arch is seen an antique statue of a Muse. The central structure of the ruin is bounded on each side by a range of arches. There is a great quantity of cornices and other fragments, spread over the ground, seemingly fallen from the buildings; and in the thickets on each side are seen several remains of piers, brick-walls, &c."

We shall close our account of the County of Surry, by relating a diffusive charity of one Mr. Smith,

Smith, (commonly called *Dog Smith*, from a Dog that always accompanied him.) This person was a Silver-smith in the City of London, and after having acquired a large fortune in that trade, he quitted it and took to begging, in which calling he continued many years, raising contributions on most of the inhabitants in this County, and others. But the inhabitants of the town of Mitcham, having exercised the legal authority, and whipped him out of their town as a common vagrant, he gave an instance at his death of his having remembered the favour they had conferred upon him. For in his will he left to the poor of every market town in this county, fifty pounds per annum each; and to every other parish in Surry, six or eight pounds yearly, more or less, at the discretion of his trustees, except Mitcham, which he excluded from any benefit arising from his estate.

HOME CIRCUIT.

S U S S E X.

THIS County lies in a long tract on the south side of Surry; it is bounded on the west by Hampshire, on the south by the British Channel, and on the east by Kent, being sixty miles long, about twenty-nine broad, and one hundred and seventy in circumference, and contains according to Mr. *Templeman's* calculation, one thousand four hundred and sixteen square miles, it is divided into six parts, called *Rapes*, i. e. Chichester, Arundale, Bramber, Lewes, Peveney and Hastings, each of which, besides its Hundreds, has a castle, river, and forest of its own.

It was anciently the seat of the Regni, and called by the Saxons *Sudsex*, which implies the country of the South Saxons, and from whence the present name of *Sussex* is derived. The sea-coast of this county, about the middle, has very high green hills, called the Downs, which consisting of a fat, chalky soil, are very fruitful. The sea here is very dangerous, owing to the shoals and sands, which make it rough; the shore also is full of rocks, so that it has but few good ports. The middle part is chequered with meadows, pastures, corn-fields, and groves, which make a very delightful appearance. The north side is shaded pleasantly with woods, as anciently the whole country was, which
made

made it unpassable; for the wood Andradswald, so named from Andarida, an adjoining city, and now commonly called the Weald or Wild, took up in these parts an hundred and twenty miles in length, and thirty in breadth. *Lambard* and *Somner* affirm, that for a long time the whole Weald was scarce any thing else besides a desert, and vast wilderness, not planted with towns, nor peopled with men, but stuffed with herds of deer and hogs only. In this Weald, Sigibert King of the West Saxons, was stabbed to death by a swine-herd, in a place called Pryfetesflodan.

This county abounds greatly with iron-mines, which are spread all over it, and a great quantity of wood is yearly consumed in the furnaces used here for the casting of this metal, and a great deal of its meadow ground is turned into ponds and pools for the driving of hammer-mills by the flashes.

Sussex is particularly famous for that delicious bird called the wheat-ear: it is no bigger than a lark, and is taken by digging a hole in the ground, into which they put a snare of horse-hair, and then cover the hole very near, with the turf, turning the grass side downwards; these birds being so very timorous, that the shadow even of a cloud frightens them into these little cavities. They are so fat, that when caught, they can't be carried many miles without being tainted; and even in plucking them, they must be handled as little as possible.

Its chief rivers are the Arun, the Adur, the Ouse, and the Rothes; but none of them will admit a ship of five hundred tons, by reason of the sand and beach continually thrown up by the sea. The Arun rises in St. Leonard's Forest, not far from Ho. sham, passes by Arundel, and about three miles below it falls into the sea. This river has lately had a new out-let cut from it to improve
its

its navigation, which carries barges above Pulborough, and ships even of a hundred tons, as high as Arundel; from whence they carry the largest and best timber in England to the docks of Portsmouth and Plymouth, Chatham, Woolwich, Deptford, and all the King's yards. Mulletts are caught here, which in the summer come up from the sea in shoals, and feeding upon a particular weed in this river, attain that high luscious taste, which make them as great a dainty as Chichester lobsters, the Selfey cockles, the Amberley trout, Pulborough eel, the Rye herring, and preferable to the carp of this county, which is so much commended. The Adur, which some call the Beeding, comes from the same forest, forms the same course, and passing by Theyning and Bramber, whence it is sometimes called Bramber-river, and runs into the sea at New Shoreham. The Ouse comes from two branches, the one rising in that forest near the source of the Arun, the other in the forest of Worth; but they soon unite into one, which runs south by Lewes, into the sea, and forms the harbour of New Haven. The Rother rises near Rotherfield, in Pervenssey Rape, runs mostly to the east, but then makes an angle to the south, six miles north of Rye, and there falls into the sea. There are also the Levant, the Cuckmeer, the Ashburn and Aften, which, it is observed, have, as well as the former, all their fountains and their mouths in this county.

We shall begin our survey of this county with *Rye*, a populous town, situated in the most eastern part of Sussex, on the borders of Kent. It is sixty-four miles from London, and thirty-four from Tunbridge, which lies in the direct road to it. It is said to have taken its name from the Norman word *Rive*, which signifies a Bank, and appears to have been a flourishing place in the reign

reign of Edward the Third, when William d' Ypres walled and fortified it, and built a tower here, which was called after his name, Ypres tower; some remains of its old walls are still to be seen, but the ditches are almost filled up. After the decay of Winchelsea, this town greatly recovered its former reputation, which was greatly assisted by the Ocean, which being swelled with an extraordinary tempest in the year 1607, is said to have broke in so violently, and with such advantage that it made a very convenient port, which another tempest in our age did not a little improve; since that time it has greatly increased in inhabitants, buildings, fishing, and navigation, and it is now the usual passage from hence to Normandy.

Their late Majesties King George I. and King George II. were obliged to put in here after a very dangerous and tempestuous passage; and was there a large and commodious haven made here, though it would be attended with great expence, it would be found to be of great convenience and service, and once more retrieve those advantages our ancestors possessed, when this port and that of Winchelsea were in a flourishing condition.

Rye is one of the two ports, and appendages to the Cinque port of Hastings. It enjoys the same privileges as the other Cinque ports, and has sent two Members to Parliament, ever since the 42d. of Edward III. the town is washed on each side by the tides, and on the east side by the river Rother, which empties itself into Rye Haven.

Here is one of the largest parish churches in England, and tho' the houses of Rye, are mostly old-fashioned, yet there are some very neat ones built in the modern taste; a church, which formerly belonged to a monastery, is now converted in a store-house for planks, hops and other merchandize.

The

The Corporation, which is only by prescription, consists of a Mayor, twelve Jurats, and the Freemen. Here is a free Grammar school, which was erected in 1644, by Mr. *Peacock*, one of the Jurats, who also endowed it with thirty-two pounds a year, for teaching all the children of the town.

Rye is well supplied with water by pipes from two hills on the land side; its trade chiefly consists in hops, wool, timber, kettles, cannon, chimney-backs, &c. which are cast at the iron works of *Rakeley*, about four miles from Rye to the north-west, and at *Bread*, five miles to the south-west. The mackarel taken here in their seasons, are reckoned the best of their kind; all the rest of the year they trowl for soles, plaise, skates, turbot, brills, &c. which are carried up to London every day by the Rippiers, for so the fishermen are called from *Ripa*, the bank it stands on.

Near Rye in the parish of East Guildford, which is the utmost bounds of Sussex eastward, is a peculiar way of tithing their marsh-lands, whereby they pay only three shillings per acre to the rector, while in pasture; but if ploughed, five shillings.

About three miles west of Rye, is the town of *Winchelsea*, which is the other appendage to Hastings as a Cinque port. *Winchelsea*, according to Mr. *Somner*, implies in the Saxon, "a waterish place seated in a corner," which exactly answers the situation of the place, being at the corner of Kent and Sussex: it was built in the time of King Edward I. when a more ancient town of the same name was swallowed up by the sea in a terrible tempest in the year 1250.

The old town stood upon the sea-shore about two or three miles from the place where the new stands: it had a large and spacious harbour, was a place of
great

great trade, and had no less than eighteen parish churches in it.

Before this town was destroyed, it was enclosed with a rampart, and after with a very strong wall, but as it began to flourish, it was sacked by the French and Spaniards, and by the retirement of the sea fell to decay all of a sudden; nor was the new town quite finished before it was also receded from by the sea, in the year 1250. The new town was never comparable to the old one, having in its most flourishing state but three parish churches, though now there is only the chancel of the largest remaining, which is the present parish church, and in which are the monuments of three Knights Templars, as it seems, by their lying cross-legged in armour, one of which appears, by the arms, to have been of the family of *Oxenbridge*, who were formerly of great note in these parts.

It still retains its privilege of sending two burgesses to parliament, though the electors are very few, the town being most miserably decayed by the loss of its market and trade; so that the grass grows in the very streets, to such a degree, that, though they are paved, the herbage is some time so considerable as to let for four pounds *per annum*. It seems at first to have been built with admirable regularity, the streets standing all at right angles, and divided into thirty-two squares or quarters, as they now are called; the stone-work of its three gates is still to be seen, though they are near three miles asunder over the fields, and in many places of the town are fine stoned arched vaults for merchandize, and many ruinous materials of ancient structures, which are so buried that the streets have been turned into corn-fields, and the plough goes over the foundations, nay, over the first floors of the houses, where nothing of a town seems to remain.

The

The vaults appearing commodious for the Cambrick manufactory, induced some gentlemen in London, who had formed a design to introduce that branch of trade into England to establish it here, which was begun about twelve years ago, but it is now like to decline again.

Winchelsea furnished the fleet of Edward the Third with twenty-one ships and five hundred and ninety-six seamen. King Henry the Eighth for its protection built Winchelsea or Camber-Castle in the year 1539 or 1540.

This castle stands in the marshes on a peninsula, about two miles north-east of the town, and half a mile west of the sea: it is thought by some to have been built on, or with the ruins of a more ancient fabrick, and is said to have cost twenty-three thousand pounds; its outer walls are pretty entire, part of it was faced with square stones. Its plan is similar to several others erected by this King about the same time; that is, one large round tower, serving for the keep; surrounded by an assemblage of small ones of the same figure, connected by short curtains. These buildings clearly evince the low state of military architecture in this kingdom at that time, round towers being of all others the least capable of mutual defence. Its first appearance on entering the gate, strikes one with the idea of something Roman, and is not very unlike the Mausoleum of *Metella*, called *Lapidi Bove*.

In the year 1541 this, and all the other castles, block-houses and bulwarks in Kent and Suffex, were, by an act of parliament then made, put under the care and command of the Constable of Dover Castle, which office, together with that of Lord Warden of the Cinque ports, was at that time occupied by Sir *Thomas Cheney*. At length the trade of the once flourishing town of Winchelsea being totally lost, as mentioned before, and the superiority of our navy

securing our coasts from insult, this castle has been suffered to fall to its present ruinous state.

About eight miles from Winchelsea, is *Hastings*, sixty-three miles from London; though some ridiculously derived its name from the word *Haste*, which *Matthew Paris* has adopted, because at *Hastings*, William the Conqueror *Hastily* set up a fortress of timber, but it rather seems to have taken its name from *Hastings*, the Danish pirate, who erected fortresses wherever he landed, for the security of his men in their retreat to their ships with their booty. This castle stands on a rocky cliff, west of the town. At what time the present building was erected, or who was the builder, does not appear from either *Leland*, *Camden*, or any other of those writers, who have treated of the antiquities of this county. From the situation of the spot, which seems extremely proper for the ancient mode of fortification, it is more than probable here was some sort of fortress in very early times, long before the coming of the Normans. This conjecture receives some small confirmation from a passage in the *Chronicles of Dover Monastery*, printed in *Leland's Collectanea*, which says, "That when *Arviragus* threw off the Roman yoke, it is likely he fortified those places which were most convenient for their invasion, namely, *Richborough*, *Walmore*, *Dover*, and *Hastings*."

The artificial parts of this fortress are in shape nearest two sides of an oblique spherical triangle, having the point of the angle rounded off. The base, or south side completing the triangle, is formed by a perpendicular cliff, in length measuring about four hundred feet, which seems to have had no wall or other fortification; indeed, such would have been entirely unnecessary, nature having strengthened it sufficiently on that side, which is opposite the sea.

Its east side is made by a plain wall, without tower or other defence. This wall measures nearly three hundred feet.

Its

Its adjoining side, which faces the north-west, is about the same length as the rocks, namely four hundred feet; a perpendicular let fall upon the south side, or rock, from the angle formed by the junction of the walls, measures about two hundred and sixty feet, consequently, the area included is near one acre and a fifth. It is to be observed, that this calculation is not given as exact, the curvature of the figure being very irregular.

The walls, which are no where entire, are about eight feet thick. The gateway was on the north side near the northernmost angle: it is now demolished; near it, to the westward, is the remains of a small tower, enclosing a circular flight of stairs, and on the same side, farther on to the west, is a sally port, and ruins of another tower; at the distance of about one hundred feet from the east side, there ran a ditch, encompassing it as far as the gate; the breadth of this ditch was one hundred feet. Both the ditch and the interval between it and the wall, seem to have been narrowed by degrees as they approached the gate, and to have terminated under it.

On the north-west side there was a ditch of the same breadth, commencing at the cliff opposite the westernmost angle, and bearing away almost due north, leaving a plain space between it and the wall, which opposite the sally port, was one hundred and eighty feet broad. This ditch loses itself in the country.

This being the chief of the Cinque ports, we shall give our readers an account of their institution from *Camden*, who transcribed it from the record in the Exchequer; the Cinque ports were originally but five in number, viz. Hastings, Dover, Hythe, Romney and Sandwich, to which Winchelsea and Rye were afterwards annexed, as principals, and some other little towns as members only; they are obliged to serve in the wars at sea, they enjoy many large immunities, as exemption from payment of subsidies,

subsidies, from wardship of their children as to body, from being sued in any courts without their boroughs, and their barons have the honour to support the canopy at the coronation of the Kings of England, and for that day have their tables furnished at the King's right hand, and the Lord Warden, who is always of the nobility, has within his jurisdiction, in several cases, the authority of Admiral, Chancellor, and other privileges; the members sent to parliament, from these towns, are sixteen, and have the title of Barons.

Hastings, with its members, ought to find twenty-one ships at the King's summons, and there ought to be in every ship twenty-one able men, well-furnished and well-armed for the King's service, provided they have a summons made thereof in the King's name, forty days before, and when the said ships and men are come to their appointed place of rendezvous, they shall then and there abide in the King's service, fifteen days at their own charges, but if the King shall have need of their further service, it is to be defrayed at the King's expence; the master of each ship, and the constable shall each have six-pence per day, and every one of the rest three-pence.

This town consists of two great streets, with a parish-church in each, and several good houses, but its harbour, which was formerly so famous, hath shared the same fate with its neighbouring ports of Rye and Winchelsea.

At this port, or very nigh it, William the Conqueror arrived with his fleet, and after having landed and entrenched his army, he burnt his ships, with a full resolution to conquer or die. Harold, though his forces were much diminished by a former fight with the Danes, and fatigued by a long march, yet gave the Normans battle in a place called *Epiton*, (now Battle) on the 14th of October, 1066; victory for

for a long while remained suspended between the English and the Normans, till Harold was shot through with an arrow, when his army seeing their chief killed, turned their backs and betook themselves to flight.

William elated with this victory, and in consequence of a vow made before the battle, founded a mitred abbey, that constant praise and thanks might be given to God for this victory, and continual prayers offered up for such as were here slain in this battle. King Harold and sixty thousand English were left dead in the field, and upwards of ten thousand Normans.

The year after the battle, William began the Abbey at *Epiton*, on that part of the field where the fight had most fiercely raged, the high altar standing on the very spot where the dead body of King Harold was found, or according to others, on that where his standard was taken up; he dedicated it to the honour of St. *Martin*, and filled it with Benedictine monks from the Abbey of *Mormontier* in *Normandy*, perhaps on account of the thought of its erection being first suggested by *William Faber*, a monk of that house, dedicated also to St. *Martin*; the King intended to have endowed it with lands sufficient for the maintenance of one hundred and forty monks, but was prevented by death.

He however granted it divers prerogatives and immunities, similar to those enjoyed by the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury; such as the exclusive right of inquest on all murders committed within their lands; treasure-trove, or the property of all treasures found on their estates, free warren, and exemption for themselves and tenants from all episcopal and other ecclesiastical jurisdiction; also this peculiar right of sanctuary, that if any person adjudged guilty of homicide, or any other crime,

crime, should fly to that church, no harm should be done him, and he should be dismissed entirely free: but above all he gave to the Abbot the royal power of pardoning any condemned thief, he should casually pass by or meet with going to execution.

Brown Willis, in his *View of Mitred Abbies*, gives the following description of it: "Though this abbey be demolished, yet the magnificence of it appears by the ruins of its cloysters, &c. and by the largeness of the hall, kitchen and gate-house, of which the last is entirely preserved. It is a noble pile, and in it are held the sessions, and other meetings for this peculiar jurisdiction, which has still great privileges belonging to it: what the hall was when in its glory, may be guessed by its dimensions; its length above fifty of my paces; part of it is now used as a hay barn, it was leaded, part of the lead yet remains, and the rest is tiled; as to the kitchen, it was so large as to contain five fire-places, and it was arched at top. But the extent of the whole abbey may be better measured by the compass of it, it being computed at no less than a mile about.

"In this church the Conqueror offered up his sword and royal robe, which he wore on the day of his coronation. The Monks kept these till the suppression, and used to shew them as great curiosities, and worthy the sight of their best friends, and all persons of distinction, which happened to come thither. Nor were they less careful of preserving a table of the Norman gentry, that came into England with the Conqueror, this table also continued till the dissolution, and was seen by our admirable antiquary, Mr. *Leland*, who hath given us the contents of it, in the first Tome of his *Collections*."

The

The authority, however, of this roll, is not to be greatly depended upon, Sir William Dugdale, speaking of it in the first volume of his *Baronetage*, says, "There are great errors, or rather falsifications, in most of the copies of it, by attributing the derivation of many from the French, who were not all of such extraction, but merely English, but such has been the subtlety of some monks of old, that finding it acceptable unto most, to be reputed descendants to those as were companions to Duke William, in his expedition; therefore to gratify them, he inserted their names in the ancient catalogue. Not far (continued Willis) from the abbey stands the parochial church, which is one of the best in all this county. In this church there formerly hung out an old table, containing certain verses, the remains of which I shall here subjoin.

**This place of War is Battle call'd, be-
cause in Battle here,
Quite conquered and overthrow'n the
English Nation were :
This slaughter happened to them upon
St. Cælia's Day,
The year whereof ——— this number
doth array.**

The abbey increasing, and a fair, which was held every Sunday and holiday, occasioned such a resort, that it soon became a handsome and populous town; all that this town is chiefly noted for now is, for making the finest gun-powder, and the best perhaps in Europe. It is about seven miles from Hastings, and about fifty-six from London.

We shall now pursue the road we left at East Grinstead, and trace it as far as New Haven, on the sea-coast, to take notice of many remarkables, which several gentlemen,

gentlemen, resident in this county, have favoured us with; particularly those of an ingenious and observant gentleman, residing at Lindfield, and to whom we are greatly indebted for several remarkable curiosities, which have past unnoticed in former *post-basse* productions.

In the parish of *West Hoatbly*, about four miles south-west of East Grinstead, and near the turn-pike road, through Lindfield to Brighthelmstone, is a wood wherein a great number of large sandy rocks of a pure white, lay naked on the surface of the earth, among the rest is a very remarkable one, known by the name of *Great upon Little*, which is twenty feet in height and sixty-four in circumference, resting on another, whose circumference is no more than nineteen feet, and has no other bearing to support it; this large rock is computed to weigh four hundred and eighty-three tons. In the same wood is a natural cavern, known by the name of *Puck-church*.

About five miles south-east of East Grinstead, lies

Ashdown Forest, thirteen thousand acres of which were, till about 1641, inclosed with a pale fence, and well stocked with red and fallow deer, at which time it was disparked, the fence broken down, and the deer killed. In this forest King James is reported to have met the Tinker, which occasioned the old well-known ballad, and the inhabitants shew the chimney-corner in a house called Duddlewell, where they drank together.

On the left of the road, towards Lewes, is *Chittingly* or *Chiddingly*, in the parish church of which is the following monument, the account of which we have been favoured with from a gentleman of that place.

In this monument is elegantly represented, four persons of a majestic stature, dressed in the habits of
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the times, although but three of their deaths are mentioned: from the inscription we may justly suppose, the person resting on a pillar is Sir John Jefferay, the woman lying just below him, Alice his first wife, the man standing on the right, Sir Edward Montague, and on the left Elizabeth his wife. She seemingly was a remarkable beauty, and graceful person. There is also the figure of a child, much defaced and in pieces, and the whole is ruinous, for want of that necessary care due to such antient perpetuators of the memory of mankind.

The inscription of the monument is as follows:

“Here lye buried the bodies of Sir John Jefferay, Knt. Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and of Alice his first wife, sole daughter and heir of John Apsley of London, Gentleman, and of Dame Elizabeth, their sole daughter and heiress, married to Sir Edward Montague of Boughton, in the County of Northampton, Knight of the Bath, by whom she had issue one only daughter, Elizabeth, married to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Bertie, Lord Willoughby of Willoughby and Ersby, who have issue now living three sonnes, Montague, Roger and Peregrine, and one daughter, Catherine.

“The said Sir John Jefferay died the 23d of May, 1573. Alice his first wife died the 28th of May, 1570, and dame Elizabeth Montague, died the 6th of December, 1611: at whose request to her said husband, Sir Edward Montague, in memory both of her descent and offspring, this monument was erected and finished, 1612.

It is necessary here to correct a prevalent and obvious error the people of this county have acquired, viz. that this Sir John Jefferay was the cruel tyrant, whose barbarities were displayed in the west, In the reign of King James II. about the year 1685.

But this Sir John Jefferay, mentioned here, died more than a century before that date, and this monument was standing at that time, as it appears by the inscription to have been erected in 1612.

Another striking remark which corrects the absurdity of this mistake is, that the name of that inhuman Judge was George Jefferay, who died in the tower, the other, Sir John, who being represented with a scroll in his hand, probably gave rise to this opinion, and the people thereabouts simply tell you, that, "He dropped down dead with the scroll in his hand, as the peculiar judgment of Heaven on a wicked judge, in a wrong cause." We mention these circumstances particularly to endeavour to rescue perhaps an amiable character from unjust and guilty aspersions, which possess not the least shadow of truth.

Chiddingly Place, House and Farm, (says our correspondent) certainly belonged in former times to the family of the Jefferays; the house is large and spacious, and adjoining to it is a part now used as a barn, which probably was formerly the place for their private devotions, it still retaining the name of *Chapel Barn*; it appears to have been very commodious for that purpose, being lofty and large. This conjecture is greatly strengthened by the remains of a long gallery, and the peculiar form of the large windows, which are still to be seen. In one of the windows of this house, is a curious painting upon glass, the arms, crest, &c. with the following words written underneath.

Jefferay

1574.

Jefferay que, Diray.

Over Chiddingley Place Porch, are the following verses :

On the one side,

This ancient house, still flourishing
 In name of Jefferay,
 Thro' length of time, was fractur'd much,
 And long in ruins lay,
 Until that Jefferay was born,
 Who built it more stately,
 Always obeying the commands
 Of the Queen's Majesty.

On the other side,

If Christ, who does the stars uphold,
 The splendid walls support,
 Then may the builder build his house
 In large and ample sort ;
 An everlasting house, in which
 The just and godly may,
 The praises of their God sound forth,
 For ever and for aye.

Lewes is situated about fifty miles from London, in the direct road to New Haven : it gives name to its rape, and is one of the largest and most populous towns in the county ; it stands some distance from the sea, and probably takes its name from the Saxon word *Lewsa*, which signifies Pastures. It is a very ancient town, and it is said that Athelstan

stan appointed two mint-houses here, and that in the reign of Edward the Confessor's time it had 127 Burgeffes.

This town being placed upon a rising ground, on the edge of the south Downs, both it and the adjacent country are full of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats. Near this town is a most delightful and extensive prospect scarce to be equalled in this kingdom, for you may behold the sea westward for upwards of thirty miles, and eastward there is an uninterrupted view to Banstead Downs in Surry, which is forty miles,

There is little or no manufacture carried on here, though it stands very convenient for trade, the river called the Ouse, being navigable five miles higher than this town, and for flat bottomed boats to New Haven. It returns two Members to Parliament, has six churches, four in the town and two in the suburbs; the church in that part which is called St. Thomas at Cliff, is reckoned one of the neatest parish churches in the whole county; its altar is remarkable pretty; it has two pillars in the middle, between which are the ten commandments, and two pilasters on the outside; all in the Doric order, with architrave, cornice, and frieze, neatly carved and gilt, and between the pillar and pilaster on the north side, the Lord's Prayer, and on the south side, between the other pillar and pilaster, the Creed. It is exceedingly well pewed, and has a fine organ. The streets are handsome, and there is also a very handsome town-house, built of brick. There are several good inns in the town, particularly the Star, which is indeed a very elegant building.

In the neighbourhood of Lewes was fought that memorable and bloody battle between King Henry III. and his Barons, when Prince Edward forcibly breaking through the enemy's ranks, carelessly pursued them too far, and the Barons rallying their

forces, charged the remainder of the King's army with such fury, that they constrained the King to accept of hard conditions of peace, and to deliver his son as a hostage, with others, for the performance of them.

Lewes Castle, under the Saxon government, was in a flourishing condition, and gave the title of Earl to whoever was in possession of it; here is also a priory, which was the first and chief house of the Cluniac order in England, founded in the old church of St. *Pancrace* in the year 1178, by Earl *William de Warren* and the Lady *Gundreda*, his wife; the history of its foundation is in substance thus related in the charter.

“The Earl Warren and his Lady being on a pilgrimage to Rome, visited several religious houses in France, in order to offer up their orisons; and coming into Burgundy, there learned, that they could not with safety prosecute their journey, on account of a war then subsisting between the Pope and the Emperor; wherefore, turning aside, they went to the monastery of Cluni, highly in repute for its extraordinary sanctity, where they were witnesses to such devotion, humility and charity in the monks, and found such an honourable and kind reception for themselves, that they began to entertain a love and veneration for the order in general, and that house in particular; and having before been determined, by the persuasion of Archbishop *Lanfranc*, to found a religious house, they applied to *Hugh*, the Abbot, to grant them three or four of his monks for their intended monastery, promising to endow it with a sufficiency in lands and cattle, to support twelve monks, and also to bestow on them the church of St. *Pancrace*, under the castle of Lewes, which church the earl found constructed only of timber, but had it rebuilt with stone.

The

The Abbot, at first, did not lend a favourable ear to this proposal, objecting to the great distance and the danger of the sea, but at length yielding to the entreaties of the Earl, agreed, that on condition he would by deed, make over the promised estates, and also procure the King's licence and confirmation, he would comply, but till this was done, he would not suffer any of his monks to set out.

These preliminaries being accomplished, *Lauro*, with three others of that convent, departed for England, and were not long established, before they began to have a view to independency, by remonstrating to Earl Warren, that in consideration of the dangers he was daily exposed to, from the commotions in the kingdom, owing to the accession of William Rufus, it would be right to give the Prior of St. Pancras, new grants and charters for their lands, the former deed being lodged in the Abbey of Cluni. This he accordingly did, and procured to them the confirmation of the King.

In viewing the western aspect of this priory, on the left is seen a large elliptical oven, its longest diameter measuring seventeen feet. It is constructed with large tiles placed perpendicular, each tile being eleven inches in length, six feet and a half in breadth, and one in thickness.

Not far from the oven, and on the same side, viz. The north, is what is called a subterraneous passage, which it is pretended, communicated with the town of Lewes, near the house of Sir *Ferdinand Poole*; it is now choaked up with rubbish, its width, at the opening, measures three feet. In all likelihood, this was formerly one of the great drains.

East north-east of the ruins is a large mount, reported to have been thrown up by one of the Earls of Dorset, between whom and a brother, living at Lewes, a difference arose, each fearing to be over-looked by the other. The top of this mount, which
has

has much the appearance of an ancient tumulus, is seen near the center of the view, just over a part of the ruins, in which is an arched door.

Near the east end of this building is a spacious vault, supported by columns; it is sixty-eight feet long, nineteen feet six inches wide, and ten feet high.

To the right, or south of all, is what some take to have been the church or chapel of the monastery, though from what is preserved relative thereto, by *Browne Willis*, it seems that building was pulled down at the dissolution. This, however, appears to have been separate from the other parts of the priory, stands east and west, and had large church-like windows. Close under its south-side runs a small rill of water.

South-west of the ruins is a large brick pigeon-house in the form of a cross, built, probably, when the priory was inhabited by the Earl of Dorset; in it are three hundred and twenty-eight holes for pigeons.

The whole monastery, containing an area of thirty-nine acres, two roods and eleven perches, was enclosed by four walls, whose side nearly corresponded with the four cardinal points of the compass. Those on the west, north and east, are still pretty entire, though in some places they appear to have been rebuilt. The present south-wall reaches but half way the length of the side, it is low, thin, and manifestly modern, but the traces of the old wall running in a continued ridge here and there, covered with turf, are very discernible, and a piece of it is yet standing at the east end, making a right angle with that which runs from north to south. In several of the main walls of these ruins, are square pinacles, continued from one end to the other. These are deemed by the vulgar contrivances for playing off some juggling tricks, or miracles, but really were intended to facilitate the drying of the walls

walls, a very necessary consideration, especially in those of such extraordinary thickness, as were commonly made for religious houses, which were besides usually inhabited as soon as finished, the founders being impatient to see a completion of their pious intentions, as well as in haste to receive the benefit of those masses always offered up for them.

This monastery has suffered so much, that not a single piece of ornamental carving, nor scarce a piece of squared stone, is left, though it appears to have formerly been a very magnificent structure.

Newhaven is about fifty-seven miles from London, and stands at the mouth of the river *Ouse*, close to the sea. It is chiefly inhabited by maritime people, and was formerly noted for its safe and good harbour for ships of considerable burden; but for want of a provision for maintaining the timber piers, which it had for time immemorial, it was quite neglected, the harbour choaked up with sand and beach, and the piers were rotten and decayed. To remedy these evils, an act passed in 1731, for repairing and keeping in repair, the said piers and harbour; and since which it has become very thriving both in commerce and ship-building. Small vessels of different sizes are built here, and in proportion as the port improves, its trade will increase.

Seaford, adjoining to *Newhaven*, is a small town, and sends two members to parliament; it has suffered much by the depredations of foreign enemies. In 1560 it was attacked by the *French*, but they were repulsed by Sir *Nicholas Pelham*.

From *Lewes* to *Brighthelmstone*, we ride over a line of Downs, which commands a fine view of the sea; it is a sea-port, situated fifty-eight miles from London, and is a large populous old-built town. It stands extremely pleasant and healthful on a rising ground, open to the south-east, and sheltered to the north, by hills of an easy ascent; to the west

it

it is bounded by a large corn-field, which forms a gradual descent from the beach to the banks of the sea, and on the east by a fine lawn, called the Steine, to which the company resorts in the evening, for the pleasure of walking: it runs winding up into the country among hills, to the distance of some miles. The town is built in a quadrangular form, and the streets are at right angles with each other; they are six in number, besides many lanes and squares; many of the houses are of flint, and the windows and doors frequently of brick work.

Brighthelmstone being the nearest sea-port to London, and very convenient for bathing, has become a polite place, by the annual resort of gentry here in the summer season: for the accommodation of the company two handsome ball-rooms have been built, and commodious machines for bathing. The men of this town are chiefly employed in fishing, and the women in making their nets; so that it is an excellent nursery for seamen.

It is supposed some engagement has been fought near it formerly from the great number of human bones dug up on the west side for near a mile together, and from this place, King Charles II. made his escape into France, after he had hid himself in the oak, and wandered up and down the country for six weeks. A wall is said to have been built here by Queen Elizabeth, and four strong gates of free-stone; the wall was fourteen feet high, extending itself four hundred feet from the east gate to the west. The French have several times attempted to demolish this town, but their attempts were fruitless, their balls flying too high to do execution. The greatest mischief it has suffered, has been by the inundation of the sea, which in forty years time, destroyed about one hundred and thirty tenements, and the damage was computed to be near forty thousand pounds,

The small castle here, called the Block-House, was built by Henry VIII. about the same time he erected so many others for the defence of the coast, namely, about the year 1539. When it was first built, it stood some distance from the edge of the cliff, but the continual encroachments of the sea, having by degrees swallowed up the intermediate lands, at length undermined its foundations, insomuch, that part of the inner tower tumbled down, and in 1761, was lying under the cliff, as shewn in the view; since which, the remainder has also been removed, in order to make a more convenient way for carriages. There is a common tradition, that this Black House once stood in the centre of the town; but the least reflection will shew the absurdity of this supposition, since such a situation would have entirely defeated the end of the construction, which was to defend the shore.

It is also said, here was formerly a street of houses standing below the cliff, which have been washed away by the sea, but that their foundations are still visible under water. This may formerly have been true; at present no traces of them are to be seen. The sea has gained, upon this shore, at least fifty yards, within the memory of several middle aged persons; the cliff here is of clay, and about twenty-five feet high.

At *Rotting Dean*, four miles east of Brighthelmstone, is a remarkable phenomenon of the wells of that place, which at full sea are empty, and are full at low water.

Between this place and Brighthelmstone, is a bed of pebbles in the cliff, four or five feet thick, lying thirty or forty feet from the top, and several feet above high water mark; they appear to have received their roundness from the motion of water, but the face of things must have been surprizingly altered since that time.

From

From Rotting Dean the cliffs gradually increase in height, till we come to Beachy Head; the cliffs there, known by the name of the three *Charles's* or *Churks*, are about five hundred feet high, being the highest on the coast of *Suffex*. In the spring, a great number of birds, of different species, resort to breed their young, and take their flight in the latter end of summer to a warmer region. Samphire and sea-cabbage grow here in great plenty, and under the cliffs is an artificial covering, cut in the chalky rock, consisting of two rooms, one over the other, to which you ascend by steps cut in the rock; the common appellation given to it, is "Parson Darby's hole," who is reported to have cut these apartments out himself for his own residence, but that he did not live long to enjoy his retirement after he had finished it, for the dampness of it soon put an end to his life.

Among the chalk and flints on the South Downs, are found many curious fossils resembling shells of many different species of sea animals; and in the middle of some flints are perfect gems, as clear as Bristol stones.

At *Wilmington*, on the north side of the South Downs, between Lewes and East Bourne, is a remarkable figure of a man on the side of a hill; his arms are represented bending upwards from the elbows, holding in each hand a staff parallel with his body; the figure measures about eighty yards in length, it is reported to have been once paved with brick, which made it discernible ten or twelve miles, but if ever it was so paved, the bricks are gone, and it is now only to be distinguished from the rest of the ground, by the different colour of the grass.

In the adjoining parish of *Arlington*, in a sand-pit, may be seen several kinds of wood, buried six feet from the surface, which are become perfectly petrified.

Proceeding

Proceeding along the coast westward, about ten miles from Brighthelmstone, is New Shoreham, the port of which has been partly choaked up by banks of sand. It stands upon the river Adur, and its chief business is in building and fitting up of ships, both for the use of the navy and merchants. Here are many ship-carpenters and ship-chandlers, and other tradesmen depending on that business, who seem to have settled here chiefly for the plenty and cheapness of timber in the country behind it. It is said that the demand for these trades is so great, and the people so industrious, that there is some times not so much as a single person who receives alms; a circumstance worthy not only of praise, but of imitation.

This town, rose by the decay of Old Shoreham; on the north side of it, is a Borough by proscription, and has sent Burgesses to Parliament, ever since the 26th of Edward I. Ella the Saxon is said to have landed here with supplies from Germany, with which he drove the Britons into the great wood, now called the Weald, and possessing himself of their country, established the kingdom of the South Saxons.

The market here is on Tuesdays, principally for corn by sample, and particularly for malt for exportation. The market-place stands on Doric pillars, and there is an old piece of the wall of the ancient church still standing in the church-yard.

This manor was formerly the estate of John Duke of Norfolk, who was killed in Bosworth-field: it was afterwards given to Thomas Lord Delawar; and a priory was once founded and endowed here by one of the Mowbrays, its ancient Lords.

In the neighbourhood of Shoreham is Bramber and Steyning, both which are Borough towns, and send Members to Parliament. They have nothing very remarkable,

remarkable, except the ruins of an old castle, built by one of the family of the Breoses in the time of William the Conqueror.

Those that go from Brighthelmstone to Steyning, travel along a delightful road, which commands to the right a most amazing view of the lower country, you look down the steep of a hill into the Wild, quite another region beneath you, a vast range of many miles of inclosures are seen on the flat, quite rich in verdure and wood. It is walled in by the sweeps of bare hills, projecting in the boldest manner, a view uncommonly striking.

At the mouth of the river Adur, near Shoreham, is that ancient port, where, when the Saxons first infested our seas, the band of Explorators, under the Roman Emperors, had their station, but it is now choaked up with sand, but the name still remains entire, as also the name of an adjacent village, called *Port Slade*, i. e. the way to the port.

Proceeding along the sea-coast from Steyning, we come to

Arundel, about fifty-five miles from London. It seems to have taken its name from the river *Arun*, though some think it is derived from *Bevis's* romantic horse, who is said to have founded the castle, and the name of *Bevis's Tower* given to a part of it, which they tell you was his own apartment. The town stands upon the river *Arun*, and has sent Members to Parliament ever since the 30th of Edward I. It had anciently a collegiate church, founded by Richard Earl of Arundel, and a priory of Benedictine monks.

The Castle, which under the Saxon government was in a flourishing condition, and said to be a mile in compass, was repaired by Roger de Montgomery, to whom it was given by William I. In the civil wars, it being possessed by the Parliament's

ment's forces, was taken for the King, after three daye siege, by Lord Hopton, and retaken by Sir William Waller, when the great Divine Chillingworth, who was also an excellent engineer, served here in the latter capacity.

The situation of the town is extremely pleasant on the side of a hill with a wooden bridge over the river, near the mouth of which, was anciently a good harbour, called Little Hampton, capable of admitting ships of a considerable burden, even up to the bridge, but a beach being thrown up by the sea, ruined the harbour and navigation of the river, for the repairing of which, an act passed in the year 1733. In the church, which is now parochial, are several monuments of the ancient Earls.

From Arundel to Chichester, is twelve of as pleasant and delightful miles as a man would wish to travel.

Chichester is about sixty three miles from London, the road to which passes by Godalmin in Surry, which we have already described; we enter the county on this road at *Cripple Crouch*, and pass by Midhurst, the *Midæ* of the Romans, which sends two members to parliament; near it is *Cowdrey*, the seat of Lord Viscount Montacute; it is situated in a valley, encompassed with lawns, hills, and woods, thrown into a park, the river running underneath, which renders the place very agreeable in summer, but makes it dampish in winter. The house is square, and at each corner is a Gothic tower, which have a very good effect, when viewed from the rising ground; the hall is ceiled with Irish oak, after the ancient manner; the walls are painted with architecture by *Roberti*, the statues by *Goupe*, the stair-case by *Pelegrini*; the large parlour, or room at the hall, is of *Holbein's* painting, where that great artist has described the exploits of King Henry the Eighth before Boulogne, Calais, his landing at Portsmouth, his magnificent entry into London, &c.

In

In the other rooms are many excellent pictures of the ancestors of the family, and other paintings of *Holbein*, relating their actions in war; the rooms are stately and well furnished, adorned with many pictures; there is a long gallery with the Twelve Apostles as big as life, another very neat one wainscoted with Norway oak, where are many ancient whole length pictures of the family in their proper habits. There are four history pieces, two copies of Raphael's marriage of Cupid and Psyche, and several old religious and military paintings from Battle Abbey.

The park is noble, having a great variety of grounds in it, and is well wooded with pines and firs, and other ever-green trees, which are grown to a large size; and here are some of the largest chesnut trees perhaps in England; the vallies, which run through the park, are well supplied with water, which keeps the grass in constant verdure.

To the right of this road is *Petworth*, a large handsome and populous market town, which standing upon an ascent, is dry and healthy; besides many gentlemen's houses, both in the town and neighbourhood, is an ancient seat of the old family of the *Piercys*, now extinct, whose daughter, the sole heiress of all his vast estates, married *Charles Seymour*, late Duke of Somerset, and among other noble seats, brought his Grace this of Petworth. This seat came afterwards to the Earl of Egremont, great grandson of the said Duke, by his said daughter the late *Catharine Seymour*.

The Duke pulled down the ancient house, and on the same spot built from the ground, one of the best modelled houses then in Britain; the apartments are very noble, well contrived and richly furnished, but the avenues to the front want space. In the armory of this house, they shew, besides several other curiosities, a sword, which is said to be
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the sword of *Hotspur*; and the date upon the blade seems to countenance the opinion. It is not so unweildy as other ancient swords usually are.

Chichester is a neat and pretty large city, standing on a plain, with the river Lavant running under its walls. It was called by the ancient Britons *Caercei*, and *Caractacus* was besieged in it by some Saxon and Norwegian pirates, who set it on fire, and he narrowly escaping the flames, retired to the mountains in Wales. After the establishment of the Saxon heptarchy, it was rebuilt by *Cissa*, whose father *Ella* was the first that erected a kingdom here, and took the name of *Cissa's Ceaster*, i. e. the city of *Cissa*.

This city was but of small repute before the Norman Conquest, being only noted for St. Peter's monastery and a little nunnery. Bishop *Ralph* built a cathedral church here, which before it was finished was burnt down on the third of May, 1114, but by his endeavours, and King Henry the First's liberality, it was raised up again. The cathedral church, Bishop's palace, and the dean and prebendaries houses, take up all the space between the west and south gates, which about the time of Richard I. were again destroyed by fire, and *Seffrid*, the second Bishop of that name, re-edified them. The church itself is not large, but very neat, with a high stone spire, deservedly admired for its curious workmanship; the church is remarkable for two side aisles on both sides, and on part of the south side of the church the history of its foundation is curiously painted, as also the pictures of the Kings and Queens of England, from William the Conqueror to George I. On the other part are the pictures of all the Bishops, as well of *Selfey* as of *Chichester*; all done at the charge of Bishop *Sherborn*, who beautified this church very much, and had

had his motto set up in many parts of it, *Credite Operibus*; and *Dilexi decorem domus tuæ, domine*. The great tower, which stands near the west side of the church, was built by *R. Riman*, and as is reported, with the very stones which he had provided to build a castle at *Apple Derham* adjacent to this town, which he was prohibited building. The monuments of Bishop *Carleton* and Bishop *King*, are in this church with their effigies curiously carved in marble. Besides the cathedral, there are five small churches within the walls.

Chichester is walled round, and has four gates, answering to the four cardinal points, from whence the streets, which meet in the centre of the city, have their names. In this spot stands a curious cross and market-house upon pillars, erected by Bishop *Read*; on this cross, which is an octagon, with a large pillar in the middle, from which are sprung eight different arches; there are three dials to the clock, that facing the east has a minute hand; there is no dial to the north, as that side of the cross is not seen from the north street. On the west side of this cross is the following inscription.

“ This beautiful cross, erected by *Edward Story*, Bishop of Chichester, who was advanced to that dignity by Edward IV. 1478, was first repaired in the reign of Charles the II^d. and now again in the twentieth of our present sovereign George the II^d. 1746, *Thomas Wall*, Mayor, at the sole expence of *Charles Duke of Richmond, Lenox, and Aubigny*.”

And on the south side the following;

“ *Dame Elizabeth Farrington*, relict of Sir *Richard Farrington*, Baronet, gave this clock as an hourly memento of her good will to this city, 1724.”

And on the east side, in a niche, is a bust of King Charles the First.

In the year 1723, in digging a foundation at Chichester, was found, pretty deep in the ground, a

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large

large stone, six feet long, and three broad, with a Roman inscription on it. In digging up the stone, a few of the letters were erased; but the learned Mr. Gale has filled up the lacuna's, for which he gives probable conjectures, and then it reads as follows:

Neptuno et Minervæ templum, pro salute domus divinæ ex auctoritate Tiberii Claudii, Cogidubni regis, legati Augusti in Britannia, collegium fabricorum, et qui in eo a sacris, vel honorati sunt de suo dedicaverunt; donante aream Pudente Pudentini filio.

That is,

This temple was dedicated to *Neptune* and *Minerva*, for the safety of the Imperial Family, by the authority of *Tiberius Claudius*. It was erected by the College of Artificers of King *Cogidubnus*, *Augustus's* Lieutenant in *Britain*, and by those who officiated as priests, or were honoured, in it, at their own expence; the ground being given by *Pudens* the son of *Pudentinus*.

This stone was presented to the late Duke of Richmond, who placed it on a temple in a mount in his garden at *Godwood*, between the statues of *Neptune* and *Minerva*.

At *St. Rook's Hill*, *Gonshill*, and the *Brile*, are still to be seen different Roman or probably Danish lamps; and a chapel was formerly erected upon *St. Rook's Hill*, possibly dedicated to *St. Roch*, from which the hill very likely took its name.

This city sends two members to parliament, and is governed by a Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council without limitation, and four justices of the peace, chose out of the Aldermen.

Here

Here are large granaries for corn near the brook, from whence the farmers send it to the London markets by water carriage, whereas formerly they carried it to Farnham market, which is near forty miles.

About three miles from Chichester, is *Godwood*, formerly the ancient seat of the Earls of Northumberland, now in the possession of his grace the Duke of Richmond; the late Duke built some offices which were to have corresponded with a mansion-house, designed by *Collin Campbell*, and published by him in his *Vitruvius Britannicus*, but before his death he altered his design, and built a noble apartment on the south side of the house, cased with Portland stone, intended as one of the wings to the house his grace proposed to erect, had he lived a few years longer.

His grace had a noble *menagerie*, where he kept a great variety of foreign animals and birds. The park is small, but planted with clumps of several sorts of oaks, to the west and north of the house; but on the east and south-side of the park, there are clumps of the different sorts of pines and firs.

It has an easy descent to the east, south, and south west, with the prospect of a rich and beautiful landscape, bounded by the sea, for thirty miles in length. The Isle of Wight terminates the south-west prospect, and the famous St. Rook's Hill covers it from the north. His late grace erected a room on a rising ground, at the upper part of the park, from whence is a view of the country for many miles, and a noble prospect of the sea, from the harbour of Portsmouth quite round by the Isle of Wight, many leagues out to sea. In this room the Duke frequently entertained company at dinner, there being a good kitchen built near it, with many other conveniences; a very pretty garden, stored with a great variety of curious plants and flowers in front, and

on each side of the room, so as to render the place very delightful.

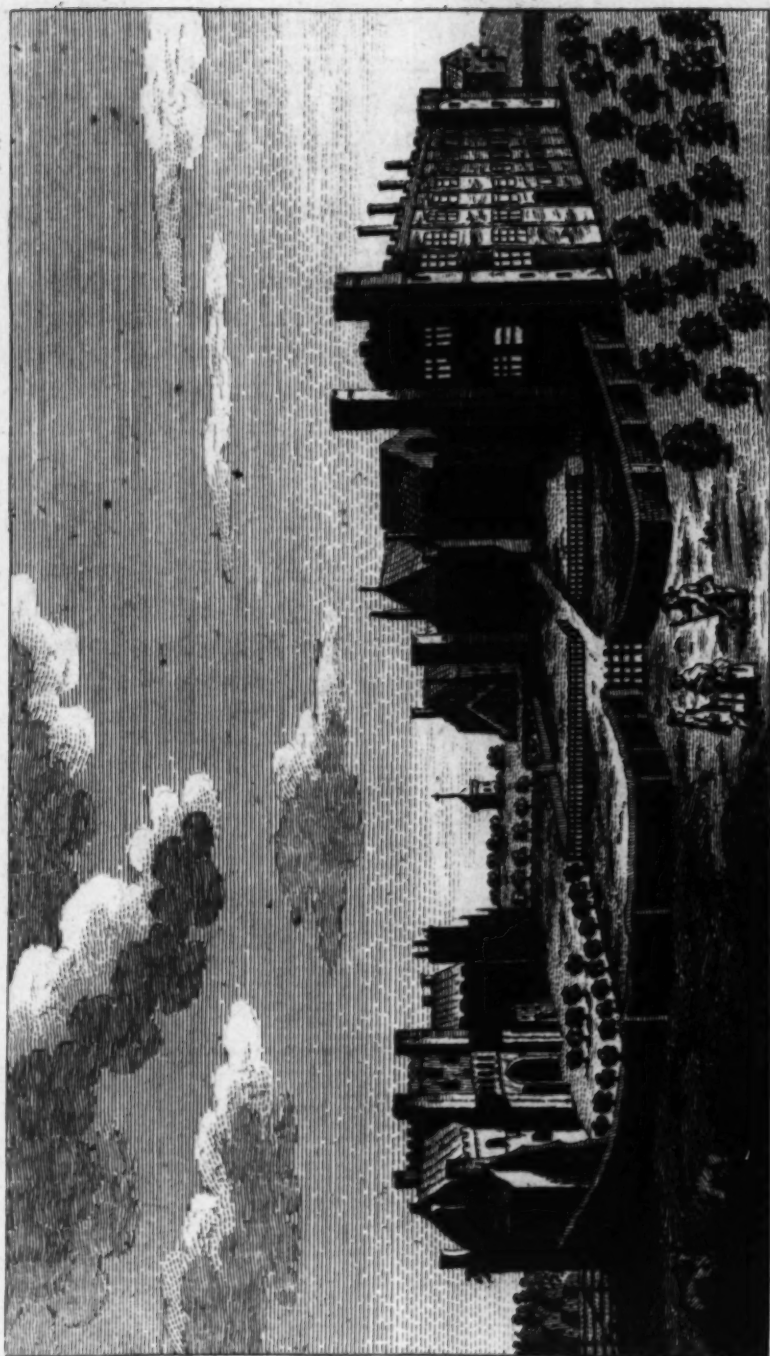
Adjacent to Godwood, is the seat of the late Right Honourable the Countess Dowager of Derby, formerly in the possession of the *De La Wars*, and considerably improved by the late Earl of Derby. It is called *Halnaker*, and is seated in a small but very beautiful park; the ancient part of the house is the remains of the castle, and the windows of the front command a fine prospect of the sea.

Charleton, a small village to the east of Godwood, is remarkable for being the seat of fox-hunting, and many persons of quality have built small hunting houses on this spot for their residence during the season for fox-hunting, the most beautiful of which is that of his grace the late Duke of Richmond; here is also a large room, which was designed by the Right Honourable the Earl of Burlington, where the gentlemen fox-hunters dine every day together during their stay at the village.

About a mile from Chichester on the London road, a strong fort is erected; since the late rebellion this fort is well planted with guns, and is the only pass to the town by land; all the rest of the ground about it is a deep marsh.

At *Stansted* is a fine seat belonging to the Earl of Scarborough; the house is surrounded with thick woods, through which there are the most agreeable vistas cut that are to be seen any where in England; that at the west opening is particularly beautiful, which permits a perspective view from the dining-room of the town and harbour of Portsmouth, the ships at Spithead, and also at St. Helen's.

On the very confines of Hampshire, and about three miles from Chichester, stands *Bosenham*, commonly called *Boseham*, which is environed with woods and sea together. The parish church is a large



Battel Abbey Sussex.

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large handsome building ; in it is a very ancient monument with a female figure upon it, supposed to represent the daughter of King Canute.

In digging not long ago in the church, was found the figure of a man's head in stone ; the sculpture of the hair and features is very discernible ; from the chin to the crown are about twenty inches, and consequently the height of the whole body of the figure must have been about fifteen feet ; it is conjectured to have been one of the Saxon idols, the head by the direction of the minister of the parish, is now repositied in the church.

Thus much for Suffex, which county finishes our survey of the Home Circuit. We shall therefore proceed to describe the remarkables in the different counties in the Oxford Circuit.

large handsome building; in it is a very ancient monument with a female figure upon it, supposed to represent the daughter of King Henry I. In digging not long ago in the church, was found the figure of a man's head in stone; the features of the hair and features is very distinct; from the chin to the crown are about twenty inches, and consequently the height of the whole body of the figure must have been about fifteen feet; it is conjectured to have been one of the Saxon idols, the head by the direction of the minister of the parish is now deposited in the church.

There much for Suffolk, which county differs our survey of the Home Circuit. We shall therefore proceed to describe the parishes in the different counties in the Oxford Circuit.

OXFORD CIRCUIT

Comprehends eight Counties; viz. Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire; all which we shall regularly describe in the order we have placed them. And first for

B E R K S H I R E.

THIS county was termed by the Saxons *Berrocseyre*, which name *Cambden*, and others, derive from *Berroc*, which imports an oak disbarked, where it is said the inhabitants used to resort for consultation, when the state was in more than ordinary danger; these assemblies used commonly to be held in Windsor Forest; not that it is certain they chose a *bare oak* rather than any other, but that having been convened to it in its flourishing state, they continued their counsels there, even after it was grown old and bare.

Berkshire is bounded by Hampshire on the south, by Wiltshire on the west, by the Thames on the north, which separates it from Buckingham and Oxfordshire, and on the east by Middlesex and Surry. It is thirty-nine miles long, twenty-three broad, one hundred and twenty in circumference, and contains an area of six hundred and fifty-four miles, with about five hundred and twenty-seven thousand

thousand acres, according to Mr. *Templeman's* calculation.

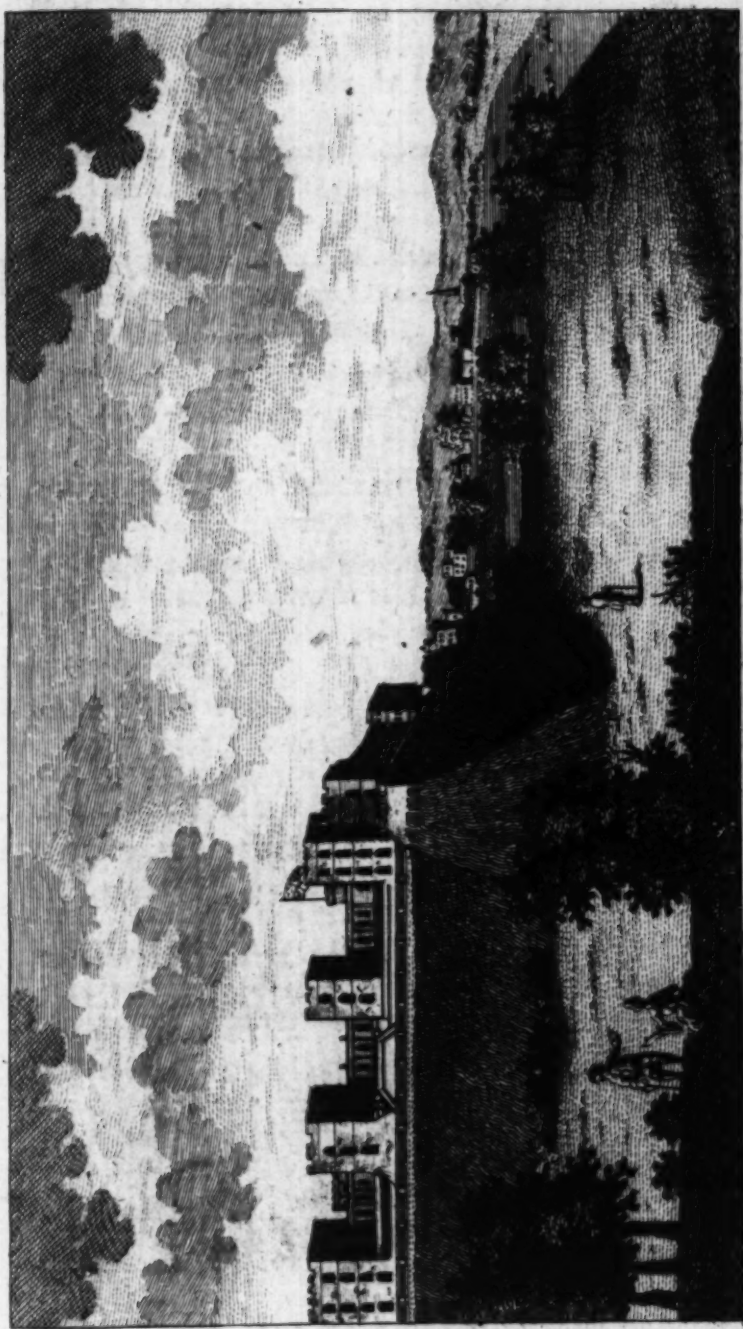
The air of this county is in general healthy and sweet, and the soil rich and fruitful, especially in the middle parts, where it falls into a valley, which they call the Vale of White-horse, from a fancied figure on the side of a chalky hill; but the east side, which borders upon Surry is not so fertile, being mostly taken up with woods and forests, which is well stored with cattle and timber, particularly oak and beech; it also abounds with wild fowl and other game, as its rivers do with plenty of fish, especially fine large trout and cray-fish.

We shall enter this County at

Windsor, about twenty-one miles from London; the road to which we last left at Hounslow in Middlesex.* It takes its name from its winding shore, called in King Edward the Confessor's Charter *Windle Shore*; it has belonged to the crown ever since the Conquest, and is a pleasant and well inhabited borough, agreeably situated on the south bank of the Thames, in the midst of delightful vallies; its church is a spacious ancient building, situated in the high street of the town, in which is also the town-house, a neat regular edifice, built in 1686, and supported with columns and arches of Portland stone; the hall is a handsome large room, well adapted for the meeting of the Mayor and Corporation for the business of the Borough.

At the north end of the town-house, the corporation have placed in a niche the statue of Queen Anne, who made Windsor her summer residence, she is vested in her royal robes, with the globe and other regalia; and underneath, in the frieze of the

* Vide page 184, Vol. I.



The Royal Palace of Windsor.



entablature of the lesser columns and arches, is the following inscription in letters of gold.

Anno Regni sui VI^o.

Dom. 1707.

Arte tuâ, Sculptor, non est imitabilis ANNA;
ANNÆ vis similem sculpere? Sculpe Deam.
S. Chapman, Pretore.

And in a like niche, on the south side, is the statue of her Majesty's royal consort, Prince George, of Denmark, in a Roman military habit, and underneath is the following inscription:

Serenissimo Principi
GEORGIO Principi Daniæ,
Heroi omni sæculo venerando,
Christophorus Wren, Arn.
Posuit. M.DCC.XXIII.

In the area underneath this town-hall, is kept a weekly market, on every Saturday, which is plentifully supplied with corn, meat, fish, and all other provisions. The town has been lately paved and lighted by act of parliament.

The greatest ornament to Windsor is the Castle, where we shall detain our readers some time to describe that most delightful palace of our Sovereigns. Scarce any royal seat can boast of a more pleasant or healthful situation, which hath drawn many of our princes hither, as to a place of pleasant retirement.

It was first built by William the Conqueror, who delighted much in hunting, and agreed with the Abbot of Westminster for an exchange, as he said it was a place fit for the entertainment of kings.

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It was greatly improved and fortified by King Henry I. who added many additional buildings, and surrounded the whole with a strong wall. King Edward I. had four children born here by his Queen Eleanor; but King Edward III. who was born here, and delighted in the situation, caused the ancient building to be pulled down, and erected the present stately castle, and St. George's Chapel,

This king, who greatly prided himself in being the founder of this palace, employed William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, as overseer in this work, and there is a lofty tower called from him, Winchester Tower. It is reported, that Wickham after he had built the tower cut these doubtful words on a certain inner wall :

THIS MADE WICKHAM.

This sentence, which admits of a double construction in the English tongue, was presently carried to the ear of the King by some secret back-biters, as if that prelate did arrogantly challenge to himself all the honour of the building, which, when the King took ill and sharply chid him for it, he made this answer, " that he had not arrogated to himself so magnificent and royal a palace, but only accounted this work the foundation of all his preferments, neither have I (continued he) made this castle, but this castle hath made me, and from a mean condition, hath advanced me to the King's favour, and to riches and honours."

This castle has had great additions made to it by several of our succeeding monarchs, and Charles II. soon after the restoration entirely repaired it, and though it had suffered greatly in the preceding times of national disorder, he restored it to its ancient splendor, left little to be added to it except
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some additional paintings in the apartment, which were supplied by his successors, James the Second and William the Third, in whose reigns the whole was compleated.

This stately and venerable castle is divided into two courts or wards, with a large round tower between them called the middle ward, it being formerly separated from the lower ward by a strong wall and draw-bridge. The whole contains about twelve acres of land, and has many towers and batteries for its defence; but length of time has abated their strength, and the happy union that subsists between the prince and people, has made it unnecessary to keep these fortifications in perfect repair.

The castle is situated upon a high hill, which rises by a gentle ascent, and enjoys a most delightful prospect around it: in the front is a wide and extensive vale, adorned with corn-fields and meadows, with groves on either side, and the calm smooth water of the Thames running through it, and behind it are every where hills covered with woods, as if dedicated by nature for game and hunting.

On the declivity of the hill is a fine terrace faced with a rampart of free-stone, one thousand eight hundred and seventy feet in length. This may justly be said to be one of the noblest walks in Europe, both with respect to the strength and grandeur of the building, and the fine and extensive prospect over the Thames of the adjacent country on every side, where, from the variety of fine villas scattered about, nature and art seem to vie with each other in beauty.

From this terrace you enter a beautiful park, which surrounds the palace, and is called the Little or House Park, to distinguish it from another adjoining, which is of a much larger extent. This little park is four miles in circumference, and surrounded by

by a brick wall. The turf is of the most beautiful green, and is adorned with many shady walks, especially that called Queen Elizabeth's, which on the summer evenings is frequented by the best company. A fine plain on the top of the hill was made level for bowling in the reign of King Charles II. and from hence is the like extended prospect over the Thames, and the same beautiful and well cultivated country. The park is well stocked with deer and other game, and the keeper's lodge at the farther end is a delightful habitation.

But to return to the castle. In the upper court is a spacious and regular square, containing on the north side the royal apartments, and St. George's chapel and hall; on the south and east sides are the royal apartments, those of the Prince of Wales and the great officers of state; and in the centre of the area is an equestrian statue in copper of King Charles II. in the habit of one of the Cæsars, standing on a marble pedestal, adorned with various kinds of fruit, fish, shipping, and other ornaments. On the east side is the following inscription on a shield:

CAROLO SECUNDO,
Regum optimo,
Domino suo clementissimo,
Tobias Rustat
Hanc effigiem humilime
Dedit et dedicavit,
Anno Domini MDCLXXX.

The round tower, which forms the west side of this upper court, contains the Governor's apartments. It is built on the highest part of the mount, and there is an ascent to it by a large flight of stone steps: these apartments are spacious and noble, and among the rest is a guard room, or magazine
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of arms. King Charles II. began to face this mount with brick, but only completed that part next the court.

The lower court is larger than the other, and is in a manner divided into two parts by St. George's chapel, which stands in the centre. On the north, or inner side, are the several houses and apartments of the Dean and Canons of St. George's chapel, with those of the Minor Canons, Clerks, and other officers; and on the south and west sides of the outer part, are the houses of the poor knights of Windſor. In this court are alſo ſeveral towers belonging to the officers of the crown, when the court is at Windſor, and to the officers of the order of the Garter.

The royal apartments are on the north ſide of the upper court, and are uſually termed the Star-building, from a ſtar and garter in gold in the middle of the ſtructure, on the out ſide next the terrace.

The entrance into the apartments is through a handſome veſtibule, ſupported by columns of the Ionic order, with ſome antique buſtos in ſeveral niches; from hence you proceed to the great ſtair-caſe, which is finely painted with ſeveral fabulous ſtories from Ovid's *Metamorphoſes*. In the dome Phaeton is repreſented deſiring Apollo to grant him leave to drive the chariot of the ſun; in large compartments on the ſtair-caſe are the transformation of Phaeton's ſiſters into poplar-trees, with this inſcription, *Magnis tamen excidit auſis*; and Cygnus changed into a ſwan. In ſeveral parts of the ceiling are repreſented the ſigns of the Zodiac, ſupported by the winds, with baskets of flowers, beautifully diſpoſed: at the corners are the four elements, each expreſſed by a variety of figures. Aurora is alſo repreſented with her nymphs in waiting, giving water to her horſes. In ſeveral parts
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of the stair-case are the figures of Music, Painting, and the other sciences. The whole is beautifully disposed, and heightened with gold; and from this stair-case you have a view of the back stairs painted with the story of Meleager and Atalanta.

Having ascended the stair-case, you enter first into the Queen's guard-chamber, which is completely furnished with guns, pistols, bayonets, pikes, swords, &c. beautifully ranged and disposed into various forms, as the star and garter, the royal cypher, and other ornaments. On the cieling is Britannia in the person of Queen Catherine of Portugal, consort to King Charles II. seated on a globe, bearing the arms of England and Portugal, with the four grand divisions of the earth, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, attended by deities, making their several offerings. On the outer part of this beautiful group are the signs of the Zodiac; and in different parts of the cieling are Minerva, Mars, Venus, and other heathen deities, with Zephyrs, Cupids, and other embellishments, properly disposed: over the chimney is a portrait of Prince George of Denmark, on horse-back, by Dahl; with a view of shipping, by Vandevelde.

You next enter the Queen's presence-chamber, where Queen Catherine is represented, attended by Religion, Prudence, Fortitude, and other virtues: she is under a curtain spread by Time, and supported by Zephyrs, while Fame sounds the happiness of Britain; below, Justice is driving away Envy, Sedition, and other evil genii. The room is hung with tapestry, containing the history of the beheading of St. Paul, and the persecution of the primitive Christians; and adorned with the pictures of Judith and Holofernes, by Guido Reni; a Magdalen, by Sir Peter Lely; and a Prometheus, by young Palma.

On

On entering the Queen's audience chamber, you see the cieling painted with Britannia in the person of Queen Catherine, in a car drawn by swans to the temple of Virtue, attended by Flora, Ceres, Pomona, &c. with other decorations, heightened with gold. The canopy is of fine English velvet, set up by Queen Anne; and the tapestry was made at Coblentz, in Germany, and presented to King Henry VIII. The pictures hung up in this room, are, a Magdalen by moon-light, by Carracci; St. Stephen stoned, by Rotterman; and Judith and Holofernes, by Guido Reni.

On the cieling of the ball-room King Charles II. is represented giving freedom to Europe, by the figures of Perseus and Andromeda; on the shield of Perseus is inscribed *Perseus Britannicus*, and over the head of Andromeda is wrote *Europa Liberata*; and Mars, attended by the celestial deities, offers the olive-branch. On the coving of this chamber is the story of Perseus and Andromeda, the four Seasons, and the signs of the Zodiac, the whole heightened with gold. The tapestry, which was made at Brussels, and set up by King Charles II. represents the four seasons of the year; and the room is adorned with the following pictures: the Roman Charity, after Tintoret; Duns Scotus, by Spagnoletto; a Madona, by Titian; Fame, by Palmegiani; the Arts and Sciences, also by Palmegiani; and Pan and Syrinx, by Stanick.

The next room you enter is the Queen's drawing room, where on the cieling is painted the Assembly of the Gods and Goddesses, the whole intermixed with Cupids, flowers, &c. and heightened with gold. The room is hung with tapestry representing the twelve months of the year, and adorned with the pictures of Lot and his daughters, after Angelo; Lady Digby, wife of Sir Kenelm Digby, by Vandyke; a sleeping Venus, by Poussin; a family

family in the characters of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, by De Bray; a Spanish family, after Titian; and a flower piece, by Varelst.

In the Queen's bed-chamber, the bed of state is rich flowered velvet, made in Spitalfields, by order of Queen Anne; and the tapestry, which represents the harvest-season, was also made at London, by Poyntz. The cieling is painted with the story of Diana and Endymion, and the room is adorned with the pictures of the Holy Family, by Raphael; Herod's cruelty, by Guilio Romano; and Judith and Holofernes, by Guido.

The next is the room of Beauties, so named from the portraits of the most celebrated beauties in the reign of King Charles II. they are fourteen in number, viz. Lady Offory, the Duchess of Somerset, the Duchess of Cleveland, Lady Gramont, the Countess of Northumberland, the Duchess of Richmond, Lady Biron, Mrs. Middleton, Lady Denham, and her sister, Lady Rochester, Lady Sunderland, Mrs. Dawson, and Mrs. Knott. These are all original paintings, drawn to great perfection by Sir Peter Lely.

In the Queen's dressing-room are the following portraits: Queen Henrietta Maria, wife to King Charles I. Queen Mary, when a child, and Queen Catharine; these three are all done by Vandyke: the Duchess of York, mother to Queen Mary and Queen Anne, by Sir Peter Lely.

In this room is a closet, wherein are several paintings, and in particular a portrait of the Countess of Desmond, who is said to have lived to within a few days of an hundred and fifty years of age; also a portrait of Erasmus, and other learned men. In this closet is likewise the banner of France, annually delivered on the second of August by the Duke of Marlborough, by which he holds B'enheim-house, built at Woodstock in Oxfordshire,
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in the reign of Queen Anne, as a national reward to that great general for his many glorious victories over the French.

You are next conducted into Queen Elizabeth's, or the picture gallery, which is richly adorned with the following paintings: King James I. and his Queen, whole lengths, by Vansomer; Rome in flames, by Giulio Romano; a Roman family, by Titian; the Holy family, after Raphael; Judith and Holofernes, by Tintoret; a night-piece, by Skalkin; the pool of Bethesda, by Tintoret; a portrait of Charles VI. Emperor of Germany, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; the wise men making their offerings to Christ, by Paulo Veronese; two usurers, an admired piece, by the famous black-smith of Antwerp; Perseus and Adromeda, by Schiavone; Aretine and Titian, by Titian; the Duke of Gloucester, a whole length, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; Prince George of Denmark, a whole length, by Dahl; King Henry VIII. by Hans Holbein; Vandanelli, an Italian statuary, by Correggio; the founders of different orders in the Romish church, by Titian and Rembrandt; a rural piece in low life, by Bassano; a fowl piece, by Varelst; the battle of Spurs, near Terevaen, in France, in 1513, by Hans Holbein; two views of Windsor Castle, by Wosterman; and two Italian markets, by Michael Angelo. In this room is also a curious amber cabinet, presented by the King of Prussia to Queen Caroline.

There is here likewise Queen Caroline's china-closet, filled with a great variety of curious china, elegantly disposed; and the whole room is finely gilt and ornamented: over the chimney are the pictures of Prince Arthur and his two sisters, the children of King Henry VII. by Holbein; and in this closet is also a fine amber cabinet, presented

to Queen Anne by Dr. Robinson, Bishop of London, and plenipotentiary at the congress of Utrecht.

From this gallery a return is made to the King's closet, the cieling of which is adorned with the story of Jupiter and Leda. Among the curiosities in this room is a large frame of needle-work, said to be wrought by Mary, Queen of Scots, while a prisoner in Fotheringhay castle; among other figures, she herself is represented supplicating for justice before the Virgin Mary, with her son, afterwards King James I. standing by her; in a scroll is worked these words, *Sapientiam amavi et exquisivi a juventute mea*. This piece of work, after its having lain a long time in the wardrobe, was set up by order of Queen Anne. The pictures are, a Magdalen, by Carracci; a sleeping Cupid, by Correggio; contemplation, by Carracci; Titian's daughter, by herself; and a German lady, by Raphael.

You are next conducted into the King's dressing-room, where the cieling is painted with the story of Jupiter and Danae, and adorned with the pictures of the birth of Jupiter, by Giulio Romano; and of a naked Venus asleep, by Sir Peter Lely.

On leaving the above room, you are conducted into the King's bed-chamber, which is hung with tapestry representing the story of Hero and Leander: the bed of state, which was set up in the reign of King Charles II. is of fine blue cloth, richly embroidered with gold and silver; and on the cieling that prince is represented in the robes of the garter, under a canopy supported by Time, Jupiter and Neptune, with a wreath of laurel over his head; and he is attended by Europe, Asia, Africa and America, paying their obedience to him. The paintings are King Charles II. when a boy, in armour, by Vandyke; and St. Paul stoned at Lystra, by Paulo Veronese.

The cieling of the King's drawing-room, which is next seen, is finely painted with King Charles II. riding.

riding in a triumphal car, drawn by the horses of the sun, attended by Fame, Peace, and the polite arts; Hercules is driving away Rebellion, Sedition, and Ignorance; Britannia and Neptune, properly attended, are paying obedience to the Monarch as he passes; and the whole is a lively representation of the Restoration of that Monarch, and the introduction of arts and sciences in these kingdoms. In the other parts of the cieling are painted the Labours of Hercules, with festoons of fruit and flowers, the whole beautifully decorated in gold and stone colour. The pictures hung up in this room are, a converted Chinese, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; the Marquiss of Hamilton, after Vandyke, by Hanneman; Herodias's daughter, by Carlo Dolci; a Magdalen, by Carlo Dolci; and a Venetian lady, by Titian.

You next enter the King's drawing-room, where the painted cieling represents the banquet of the gods, with a variety of fish and fowl. The pictures hung up here are, the portraits of his late Majesty, and the late Queen Caroline, whole lengths; Hercules and Omphale, Cephalus and Procris, the birth of Venus, and Venus and Adonis, the four last by Genario; a naval triumph of King Charles II. by Verrio; the marriage of St. Catharine, by Dawkers; nymphs and satyrs, by Rubens and Snyders; hunting the wild boar, by Snyders; a picture of still-life, by Girardo; the taking of the bears, by Snyders; a night-piece, being a family singing by candle-light, by Quistin; a Bohemian family, by De Brie; divine love, by an unknown hand; and Lacy, a famous comedian in King Charles the Second's time, in three characters, by Wright.

Many of the paintings in this room are best seen at noon, by the reflection of the sun. The carving of this chamber is very beautiful, representing a great variety of fowl, fish, and fruit, done to the utmost perfection, on lime-wood, by Mr. Gibbons,

a famous

a famous statuary and carver in the reign of King Charles II.

In the King's audience-chamber, the canopy, which was set up in the reign of Charles II. is of green velvet, richly embroidered with gold; and on the cieling is represented the establishment of the church of England at the Restoration, in the characters of England, Scotland, and Ireland, attended by Faith, Hope, Charity, and the cardinal virtues; Religion triumphs over Superstition and Hypocrisy, who are driven by Cupids from before the face of the church; all which are represented in their proper attitudes, and highly finished. The pictures hung up in this room are, our Saviour before Pilate, by Michael Angelo; the Apostles at our Saviour's tomb, by Scavoni; Peter, James, and John, by Michael Angelo; and the Dukes of Richmond, by Vandyke.

The King's presence-chamber is hung with tapestry, containing the history of Queen Athaliah; and the cieling is finely adorned with painting; Mercury is represented with an original portrait of King Charles II. which he shews to the four quarters of the world, introduced by Neptune; Fame declaring the glory of that Prince, and Time driving away Rebellion, Sedition, and their companions. Over the canopy is Justice in stone colour, shewing the arms of Britain to Thames, and the river nymphs, with the star of Venus, and this label, *Sydus Carolynum*; at the lower end of the chamber is Venus in a marine car, drawn by tritons and sea-nymphs. The portraits hung up are, Henry Duke of Gloucester, brother to King Charles II. and his governess the Countess of Dorset, both by Vandyke; and father Paul, by Tintoret.

The King's guard-chamber, which you next enter, is a spacious and noble room, in which is a large magazine of arms, consisting of some thousands
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of pikes, pistols, guns, coats of mail, swords, halberds, bayonets, and drums, disposed in a most curious manner in colonades, pillars, circles, shields, and other devices, by Mr. Harris, late master-gunner of this castle; the person who invented this beautiful arrangement of arms, and placed those in the great armoury in the Tower of London. The cieling is finely painted in water-colours: in one circle is Mars and Minerva, and in the other Peace and Plenty. In the dome is also a representation of Mars, and over the chimney-piece is a picture of Charles XI. King of Sweden, on horseback, as big as the life, by Wyck.

At an installation, the Knights of the Garter dine here in great state in the absence of the Sovereign.

You next enter St. George's-chamber, which is particularly set apart to the honour of the most illustrious Order of the Garter, and is, perhaps, one of the noblest rooms in Europe, both with regard to the building and the painting, which is here performed in the most grand taste. In a large oval in the centre of the cieling King Charles II. is represented in the habit of the order, attended by England, Scotland, and Ireland; Religion and Plenty hold the crown of these kingdoms over his head; Mars and Mercury, with the emblems of war and peace, stand on each side. In the same oval, Regal Government is represented upheld by Religion and Eternity, with Justice attended by Fortitude, Temperance, and Prudence, beating down Rebellion and Faction. Towards the throne is represented in an octagon, St. George's cross encircled with the Garter, within a star or glory supported by Cupids, with the motto,

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

And

And besides other embellishments relating to the Order, the Muses are represented attending in full concert.

On the back of the state or Sovereign's throne, is a large drapery, on which is painted St. George encountering the dragon, as large as the life, and on the lower border of the drapery is inscribed,

VENIENDO RESTITUIT REM,

in allusion to King William III. who is painted in the habit of the Order, sitting under a royal canopy, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. To the throne is an ascent by five steps of fine marble, to which the painter has added five more, which are done with such perfection as to deceive the sight, and induce the spectator to think them equally real.

This noble room is an hundred and eight feet in length, and the whole north side is taken up with the triumph of Edward the Black Prince, after the manner of the Romans. At the upper part of the hall is Edward III. that Prince's father, the conqueror of France and Scotland, and the founder of the Order of the Garter, seated on a throne, receiving the Kings of France and Scotland prisoners; the Black Prince is seated in the middle of the procession, crowned with laurel, and carried by slaves, preceded by captives, and attended by the emblems of Victory, Liberty, and other *insignia* of the Romans, with the banners of France and Scotland displayed. The painter has given a loose to his fancy by closing the procession with the fiction of the Countess of Salisbury, in the person of a fine lady, making garlands for the Prince, and the representation of the Merry Wives of Windsor.

At the lower end of the hall is a noble music gallery, supported by slaves larger than the life, in proper attitudes, said to represent a father and his three sons, taken prisoners by the Black Prince in his wars abroad. Over this gallery on the lower compartment

compartment of the cieling, is the collar of the Order of the Garter fully displayed. The painting of this room was done by Verrio, and is highly finished and heightened with gold.

You are next conducted to St. George's or the King's chapel, which is no less royally adorned. On the cieling is finely represented our Lord's ascension; and the altar piece is adorned with a noble painting of the last supper. The north side of the chapel is ornamented with the representation of our Saviour's raising Lazarus from the dead, his curing the sick of the palsy, and other miracles, beautifully painted by Verrio; and in a group of spectators the painter has introduced his own effigy, with those of Sir Godfrey Kneller, and Mr. Cooper, who assisted him in these paintings. The east end of this chapel is taken up with the closets belonging to his Majesty and the Royal family. The canopy, curtains, and furniture, are of crimson velvet, fringed with gold; and the carved work of this chapel, which is well worthy the attention of the curious, is done by that famous artist Gibbons, in lime-tree, representing a great variety of pelicans, doves, palms, and other allusions to scripture history, with the Star and Garter, and other ornaments finished to great perfection.

From St. George's chapel you are conducted to the Queen's guard-chamber, the first room you entered; for this is the last of the state apartments at present shewn to the public, the others being only opened when the court resides at Windsor. They consist of many beautiful chambers, adorned with the paintings of the greatest masters.

In passing from hence the stranger usually looks into the inner or horn court, so called from a pair of stag's horns of a very extraordinary size, taken in the forest and set up in that court, which is painted in bronze and stone-colour. On one side is represented

sented a Roman battle, and on the opposite side a sea fight, with the images of Jupiter, Neptune, Mercury, and Pallas; and in the gallery is a representation of King David playing before the ark.

From this court a flight of stone steps lead to the King's guard-chamber; and in the cavity under these steps, and fronting this court, is a figure of Hercules also in stone colours. On a dome over the steps is painted the battle of the gods; and on the sides of the stair-case is a representation of the four ages of the world, and two battles of the Greeks and Romans in fresco.

St. George's Chapel. Among the buildings of this noble palace we have mentioned the chapel of St. George, situated in the middle of the lower court. This ancient structure, which is now in the purest style of Gothic architecture, was first erected by King Edward III. in the year 1337, soon after the foundation of the college, for the honour of the Order of the Garter, and dedicated to St. George, the patron of England; but, however noble the first design might be, King Edward IV. not finding it entirely completed, enlarged the structure, and designed the present building, together with the houses of the Dean and Canons, situated on the north and west sides of the chapel; the work was afterwards carried on by Henry VII. who finished the body of the chapel; and Sir Reginald Bray, Knight of the Garter, and the favourite of that King, assisted in ornamenting the chapel and completing the roof.

The architecture of the inside has always been esteemed for its neatness and great beauty, and in particular the stone roof is reckoned an excellent piece of workmanship. It is an elipsis supported by Gothic pillars, whose ribs and groins sustain the whole cieling, every part of which has some different device well finished, as the arms of Edward the Confessor, Edward III. Henry VI. Edward IV. Henry VII.

Henry VII. and Henry VIII. also the arms of England and France quarterly, the cross of St. George, the rose, portcullis, lion rampant, unicorn, &c. In a chapel in the south aisle is represented, in ancient painting, the history of John the Baptist; and in the same aisle are painted, on large pannels of oak, neatly carved, and decorated with the several devices peculiar to each Prince, the portraits at full length of Prince Edward, son to Henry the Sixth; Edward IV. Edward V. and Henry VII. In the north aisle is a chapel dedicated to St. Stephen, wherein the history of that saint is painted on the pannels, and well preserved. In the first of these pannels, St. Stephen is represented preaching to the people; in the second he is before Herod's tribunal; in the third he is stoning; and in the fourth he is represented dead. At the east end of this aisle is the chapter-house of the college, in which is a portrait at full length, by a masterly hand, of the victorious Edward III. in his robes of state, holding in his right hand a sword, and bearing the crowns of France and Scotland, in token of the many victories he gained over those nations. On one side of this painting is kept the sword of that great and warlike Prince.

But what appears most worthy of notice is the choir. On each side are the stalls of the Sovereign and Knights Companions of the most noble Order of the Garter, with the helmet, mantling, crest, and sword, of each Knight set up over his stall on a canopy of ancient carving curiously wrought, and over the canopy is affixed the banner or arms of each Knight properly blazoned on silk, and on the back of the stalls are the titles of the Knights, with their arms neatly engraved and blazoned on copper. The Sovereign's stall is on the right hand of the entrance into the choir, is covered with purple velvet and cloth of gold, and has a canopy and

complete furniture of the same valuable materials ; his banner is likewise of velvet, and his mantling of cloth of gold. The Prince's stall is on the left, and has no distinction from those of the rest of the Knights Companions, the whole society, according to the statutes of the institution being companions and colleagues, equal in honour and power.

The altar-piece was, soon after the Restoration, adorned with cloth of gold and purple damask by King Charles II. but, on removing the wainscot of one of the chapels in 1707, a fine painting of the Lord's supper was found, which, being approved of by Sir James Thornhill, Verrio, and other eminent masters, was repaired, and placed on the altar piece.

Near the altar is the Queen's gallery, for the accommodation of the ladies at an installation.

In a vault under the marble pavement of this choir, are interred the bodies of Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, his Queen, King Charles I. and a daughter of the late Queen Anne. In the south aisle, near the door of the choir, is buried Henry VI. and the arch near which he was interred, was sumptuously decorated, by Henry VIII. with the royal ensigns and other devices, but they are now much defaced by time.

In this chapel is also the monument of Edward Earl of Lincoln, Lord High Admiral of England, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, erected by his Lady, who is also interred with him. The monument is of alabaster, with pillars of porphyry.

Another, within a neat screen of brass-work, is erected to the memory of Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester, and Knight of the Garter, who died in 1526, and his lady, daughter to William Earl of Huntingdon.

A stately monument of white marble erected to the memory of Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort,
and

and Knight of the Garter, who died in 1699. There are here also the tombs of Sir George Manners, Lord Roos; that of the Lord Hastings, Chamberlain to Edward IV. and several others.

Before we conclude our account of this ancient chapel, it will be proper to observe, that King James II. made use of it for the service of popery, and mass being publicly performed there it has ever since been neglected and suffered to run to ruin; and being no appendage to the collegiate church, waits the royal favour to retrieve it from the disgrace of its present situation.

With respect to the royal foundations in this castle, they are, The most noble Order of the Garter, which consists of the Sovereign and twenty-five Knights Companions: The Royal College of St. George, which consists of a Dean, twelve Canons, seven Minor Canons, eleven Clerks, an Organist, a Verger, and two Sacrists: and The Alms Knights, who are eighteen in number, viz. thirteen of the royal foundation, and five of the foundation of Sir Peter le Maire, in the reign of King James I.

Of the Knights of the Garter. Windsor castle being the seat of this most illustrious order, it may be expected that we should here give some account of it. The Order of the Garter was instituted by Edward III. in the year 1349, for the improvement of military honour, and the reward of virtue. It is also called the order of St. George, the patron of England, under whose banner the English always went out to war, and St. George's cross was made the ensign of the order. The garter was at the same time appointed to be worn by the Knights on the left leg, as a principal mark of distinction, not from any regard to a lady's garter, "but as a tie or band of association in honour and military virtue, to bind the Knights Companions strictly to himself and to each other, in friendship and true agreement, and

as an ensign or badge of unity and combination, to promote the honour of God, and the glory and interest of their prince and sovereign." At that time King Edward being engaged in prosecuting, by arms, his right to the crown of France, caused the French motto, *HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE*, to be wrought in gold letters round the garter, declaring thereby the equity of his intension, and at the same time retorting shame and defiance upon him who should dare to think ill of the just enterprise in which he had engaged, for the support of his right to that crown.

The installation of a knight of this most noble order consists of many ceremonies established by the royal founder, and the succeeding sovereigns of the order, the care of which is committed to Garter king at arms, a principal officer of the order, appointed to support and maintain the dignity of this noble order of knighthood.

On the day appointed for the installation, the knights commissioners appointed by the sovereign to install the knights elect, meet in the morning, in the great chamber, in the dean of Windsor's house, dressed in the full habit of the order, where the officers of the order also attend in their habits; but the knights elect come thither in their under habits only, with their caps and feathers in their hands.

From hence the knights walk two and two in procession to St. George's chapel, preceded by the poor knights, prebendaries, heralds, pursuivants, and other officers of the order, in their several habits; being arrived there, the knights elect rest themselves in chairs behind the altar, and are respectively introduced into the chapter-house, where the knights commissioners (Garter and other officers attending) invest them with the surcoat or upper habit of the order, while the register reads the following admonition :

" Take

“ Take this robe of crimson to the increase of your honour, and in token or sign of the most noble order you have received, wherewith you being defended, may be bold, not only strong to fight, but also to offer yourself to shed your blood for Christ's faith, and the liberties of the church, and the just and necessary defence of them that are oppressed and needy.”

Then garter presents the crimson velvet girdle to the commissioners, who buckle it on, and also girds on the hanger and sword.

The procession of each knight elect separately is afterwards made into the choir, attended by the lords commissioners and other companions of the order, and preceded by the poor knights, prebendaries, &c. as before, Garter in the middle, carrying, on a crimson velvet cushion, the mantle, hood, garter, collar, and George, having the register on his right-hand, who carries the New Testament, and the oath fairly written on parchment, and the black rod on his left. On entering the choir, after reverence made to the altar, and the sovereign's stall, the knights are conducted to their several stalls, under their respective banners, and other ensigns of honour. The knights elect then take the oath, and are completely dressed, invested with the mantle of the order, and the great collar of St. George, which is done with great state and solemnity.

After the installation, the knights make their solemn offerings at the altar, and prayers being ended, the grand procession of the knights is made from the choir in their full habits of the order, with their caps frequently adorned with diamonds, and plumes of feathers on their heads, round the body of the church, and passing out at the south door, the procession is continued in great state through the courts of the castle into St. George's
hall,

hall, preceded by his majesty's music, in the following order; the poor knights of Windsor; the choir of Windsor; the choir of St. George's chapel; the canons or prebendaries of Windsor; the heralds and pursuivants at arms; the dean of Windsor, register of the order, with Garter king at arms on his right hand, and on his left the black rod of the order; the knights companions according to their stalls, their trains supported by the choristers of St. George's chapel.

The knights having for some time rested in the royal apartments, a sumptuous banquet is prepared, if the Sovereign be present, in St. George's hall, and, in his absence, in the great guard-chamber next adjoining; and the knights are introduced and dine with great state in the habits of the order, the music attending. Before dinner is ended, Garter King at Arms proclaims the style and dignity of each knight, after which the company retire, and the evening is closed with a ball for the ladies in the royal lodgings.

Windsor Great Park and Forest. As we have already described the town of Windsor, the little park, and castle, and given some account of the order of the knights of the garter, we are naturally led to mention the great park, which lies on the south side of the town, and opens by a noble road in a direct line to the top of a delightful hill at near three miles distance. This road leads through a double plantation of trees on each side, to the ranger's or keeper's lodge. The late Duke of Cumberland greatly improved the natural beauties of the park, and by large plantations of trees, extensive lawns, new roads, canals, and rivers, has rendered this villa and habitation worthy of a prince.

The great park is fourteen miles in circumference, and is well stocked with deer and other game; many foreign beasts and birds were here also kept
by

by his Royal Highness. The new erected building on Shrub's-hill, adorned beneath with the prospect of the most beautiful verdure, and a young plantation of trees, is very elegant, and affords the most delightful rural scene: the noble piece of water below, produced at a great expence from a small stream, is now rendered capable of carrying barges and boats of pleasure. Over this river, which terminates in a grotto, and a large cascade, the late Duke of Cumberland erected a bridge, on a noble and bold plan, consisting of one single arch one hundred and sixty-five feet wide.

But his attention was not confined to the park alone, but in like manner extended to the adjoining forest, which is of great extent, which was appropriated to hunting and the residence of the royal game by William the Conqueror, who established many laws and regulations for the preservation of the deer, that are still observed. In this extensive tract of land are several pleasant towns and villages, of which Wokingham, situated near the centre of the forest, is the principal; and though the soil is generally barren and uncultivated, yet it is finely diversified with hills and vales, woods and lawns, and interspersed with pleasant villas. These rural scenes are finely painted by Mr. *Pope*, who resided here when he wrote his *Windsor Forest*, and was himself a native of the place, being born at Binfield.

“ Here waving groves and chequer'd scenes display,
And part admit, and part exclude the day;
There interspers'd in lawns and op'ning glades,
Thick trees arise then shun each others shades.
Here in full light the russet plains extend,
There wrapt in clouds the blueish hills ascend;
Ev'n the wild heath displays her purple dyes,
And, 'midst the desert, fruitful fields arise,
That, crown'd with tufted trees and springing corn,
Like verdant isles the sable waste adorn.”

From

From Windsor the road shoots off into several branches, that to the right keeps close along the side of the Thames, to *Maidenhead*, in the neighbourhood of which is the Parish of *Bray*, an ancient place of such considerable note formerly, as to have given name to the whole hundred. This is supposed by *Camden*, to have been the residence of the Bibroci, before the invasion of Julius Cæsar, to whom they submitted, after he had crossed the Thames a little below this place. Scarce any village in England is so publicly known by name as this, on account of its noted Vicar, who gave rise to the celebrated song, he having been twice a Papist, and twice a Protestant, in the reigns of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, and being taxed as a turn-coat, declared he always kept to his principle, which was, "To live and die Vicar of Bray."

Maidenhead is twenty-six miles from London, and was anciently called *Soutbealington*, and is said to have taken its name from a head of one of the eleven thousand Virgins, who are reported to have been martyred with their leader, St. Ursula, though in the reign of Edward III. it was incorporated by the name of the Fraternity, or Guild of the Brothers and Sisters of *Maidenbithe*, and after the reformation, by that of Wardens and Burgessees. The town is governed by a High Steward, Mayor, Steward, and ten Aldermen, out of which they annually elect two Bridge-masters, to look after the bridge, which is built of timber, and for the repair of which, the town has three trees annually allowed them out of Windsor Forest.

The town is now pretty considerable, tho' it did not begin to flourish till after the building of the bridge, which made it a great thoroughfare for travellers from London to the west country, who before used to ferry at Bobham's End, about two miles north of the town. The barge pier of the bridge divides Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

There was a considerable Roman fort at Laurence Waltham, not far from Maidenhead, which stood in a field now called Weycock, or High-Rood, where Roman coins have been frequently ploughed up.

A little higher up than Maidenhead, on the edge of the county, opposite to Great Marlow, is

Bisham, which formerly was the estate of the Knights Templers, and afterwards of the family of the Montacutes, who built a monastery here; then of the ancient family of the Hobbys, whereof Sir William Hobby and Sir Edward Hobby are recorded in our histories; the latter, as having been employed by Queen Elizabeth in the most foreign important negociations, as a learned man and a great antiquarian. The monuments of this family are in the little church of Bisham, and well worth seeing. The seat of the family is in Dorsetshire; but when any of them die, they are generally brought hither for interment.

Near Bisham are three mills, called the Temple Mills, or the Brass Mills, for making Bisham Abbey battery work, as they term it, which consist of brass kettles, pots, pans, &c.. These works were carried on with great success till the year 1720, when they were made a bubble of, which has proved greatly disadvantageous to it.

Besides these mills there are two others of an extraordinary kind, one for making of thimbles, the other for pressing of oil from rape and flax seed, both which turned to very good account for the proprietors.

Adjoining Bisham, is

Hurley, an ancient seat of the late Lord Lovelace, created a Baron by King Charles I. The male branches of this line being extinct, the estate came by a daughter and heiress, to Sir Henry Johnson, of Blackwall, who was originally a shipwright,

wright, or master builder, at the great yard and dock there.

From Maidenhead, the road turning to the left, leads to

Reading, situated thirty-nine miles from London. This is a very handsome and populous town, and carries on a great trade. It derives its name from the British word *Reding*, signifying Fern, which grew in great plenty hereabout. This town is situated on the river Kennet, a small distance from the Thames, so that the largest barges may come up to the town bridge and load and unload at the wharfs.

This town was formerly noted for its woollen manufacture, in which trade (*Camden* says) it excelled all other towns in the county, as well as for the neatness of its streets, fine buildings, and riches, and we read of one Thomas Cole, who lived in the reign of Edward I, who was stiled, by way of eminence, *the rich Clothier of Reading*, and that Mr. Kenrick, a merchant of London, and son of a Clothier of Newbury, left seven thousand five hundred pounds to encourage the cloathing trade here; and Archbishop Laud, who was a descendant from a family of Clothiers in this town, founded and liberally endowed an hospital here. A large manufacture of sail-cloth was set up in this town by the late Sir Owen Buckingham, Lord Mayor of London, but he dying, and his son being unhappily killed in a duel, that manufacture died also soon after,

The cloathing trade here has in a great measure been laid aside, for that of malt and meal, of which two articles they send great quantities to London, in their large barges, which bring back coals, salt, grocery wares, oils, tobacco, and other goods, of which they have a great consumption.

Th. F.

There are three churches in this town, St. Mary's, St. Laurence's, and St. Giles's, built of flint and square stones in the Quincunx fashion, with high towers of the same. The town is governed by a Mayor, twelve Aldermen, and as many Burgeſſes, with other officers. It is noted for the birth of the Lord Chief Juſtice Holt, and King Charles the Firſt created Sir Jacob Aſtley Lord Aſtley of Reading, and his late Maſteſty, King George I. gave this title afterwards to the late Earl of Cadogan, who built a fine large houſe at Caverſham, in Oxfordſhire, about two miles diſtant from Reading.

There was anciently a caſtle here, to which it is ſaid the Danes retreated after they had been routed by the Saxon King Ethelwolf, at Inglefield, in this neighbourhood; but in 872 they quitted it to the Saxons, who plundered and deſtroyed the town, which they repeated in the year 1006, the caſtle, (according to *Leland*) is ſuppoſed to have ſtood at the weſt end of Caſtle-ſtreet, and that ſome part of the abbey was built out of the ruins of it.

Reading Abbey was a mitred parliamentary abbey, and one of the moſt conſiderable in England, both for the magnificence of its buildings, and the richneſs of its endowments. King Henry the Firſt began to lay its foundation in the year 1121, having pulled down a ſmall deſerted nunnery, by ſome ſaid to have been founded by Elfrida, mother in law of King Edward, called the Martyr, in expiation of the murder of that King at Corfe Caſtle. The new monaſtery was completed in four years; but the church was either not conſecrated till the reign of Henry the Second, or elſe that ceremony was, for the ſecond time, performed in the year 1163 or 1164, by Archbiſhop Becket, the King and many of the nobility being preſent. It was dedicated to the honour of the Holy Trinity, the
Bleſſed

Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist. *Brown Willis*, from divers good authorities and reasons, to these adds St. James, making its tutelers stand in the following order, the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. James and St. John the Evangelist. It was, however, commonly called the Abbey of St. Mary, at Reading, probably from the extraordinary veneration paid in those days to the Holy Virgin, which exceeded that shewn to the name of Christ. It was endowed for two hundred monks, of the Benedictine order, although at the inquisition, 50 Edward III. there were only one hundred.

In this Abbey was buried the body of King Henry I. its founder : but his heart, eyes, tongue, brains, and bowels, according Dr. *Ducavrel*, in his *Anglo Norman Antiquities*, were deposited under a handsome monument, before the altar, in the ancient priory church of Notre Dame du Pres, otherwise the Bonnes Nouvelles, at Rouen, founded in the year 1060, and destroyed during the siege of Rouen, in 1592.

Here was likewise interred Adeliza, his second Queen, according to some writers, his daughter Maud, the Empress, mother to King Henry II. though others, with more probability, fix the place of her sepulchre at Bec, in Normandy. Over her tomb here, it is said, were the following verses :

Ortu magna, viro major, sed maxima partu,
Hic jacet Henrici filia, Sponsa, parens.

In this place was also buried, at the feet of his great grandfather, William eldest son of King Henry II. likewise Constance, daughter of Edmund de Langley, Duke of York ; Anne, Countess of Warwick ; a son and daughter of Richard Earl of Cornwall, and a great number of other persons of rank

rank and distinction. King Henry I. had a tomb, on which was his effigy, as appears from a record quoted by *Tanner*; and probably there were many other magnificent monuments, which were demolished or removed, when the monastery was converted into a royal mansion, but it is not likely that the bones of the persons buried were disturbed and thrown out, as asserted by *Sandford*, neither was the abbey turned into a stable, for *Camden* says, "The monastery wherein King Henry the First was interred, was converted into a royal seat, adjoining to which stands a fair stable, stored with noble horses of the King's."

The abbey church seems to have been a spacious fabrick, built in the form of a cross; some of its walls were lately remaining; they were of rough flint, and were formerly cased with square stones; but of this they have been stripped. There is likewise to be seen, the remainder of our Lady's Chapel and the refectory; this last is eighty-four feet long and forty-eight broad, and is, according to *Willis*, the room in which was held the parliament before mentioned. The cloysters have long been totally demolished. About eight years ago a very considerable quantity of the abbey ruins, some of the pieces as much as two teams of horses could draw, composed of gravel and flints, cemented together with what the bricklayers now call grout, a fluid mortar, consisting mostly of lime, was removed for General Conway's use, to build a bridge in the road betwixt Wargrave and Henley, adjoining to his park.

We cannot leave Reading without taking notice of a natural curiosity, at Catgrove-hill, near this town, where is a stratum of oysters, five or six inches thick, through the hill. For a farther account of which, we refer the reader to the Philosophical Transactions.

To

To the south of Reading, is the town of *Oakingham*, about thirty-two miles from London, the direct road to which, we left at Egham in Surry. It is a pretty large and well frequented town. The chief manufacture carried on in this place is for cloth and silk stockings. It contains several streets, a free-school, an hospital, and a market-house, which stands in the centre of the town. The corporation consists of an Alderman, Recorder, and and capital Burgeſſes, and it has three fairs every year.

Not far diſtant from here, is

Sunning, which, though now but a little village, was formerly a place of great note, it having been, according to *Leland*, and other hiſtorians, the ſee of eight biſhops, who had this county and Wiltſhire for their diocēſe, till it was tranſlated to Sherborne, and afterwards to Salisbury. It ſtands upon a riſing ground, with a pleaſant vale below it, and before the Conqueſt the Biſhops had a Palace and Park here.

To the left of Reading, at the diſtance of ſeven-teen miles, is the town of

Newbury, i. e. the *New Borough*, ſo called from its having riſen from the ruins of the Roman Spine, and part of it is now called *Spinbam Land*. Here was formerly a great manufactory for the cloathing trade, and in the reign of Henry VIII. here flouriſhed John Winſchomb, commonly called Jack of Newbury, one of the greateſt Clothiers that ever was in England; he kept conſtantly one hundred looms at work in his own houſe; and at the battle of Floddenfield, againſt the Scots, he behaved gallantly at the head of an hundred of his own men, all armed and clothed at his own expence, he alſo built the weſt part of the church, and the whole tower of it. The late Lord Bolingbrook married

married the heiress of Sir Henry Winschomb, a descendant of this celebrated clothier.

Mr. Kenrick, who was the son of a Clothier of this town, and afterwards a merchant in London, left four thousand pounds to this town, as well as seven thousand five hundred pounds to Reading, to encourage the woollen manufacture.

This town still employs a number of hands to make shalloons and druggets, and is so considerable as to be equal, if not superior, to any single manufacture of stuff in the kingdom. It is reported that the reformation began in this town, as Dr. Twisse intimates, by calling his hearers the *first fruits of the Gospel*; and it is certain, that some persons were burnt here for their religion in the reign of Henry VIII. and in the bloody reign of Queen Mary.

This town was made a corporation by Queen Elizabeth, and is governed by a Mayor, High Steward, Aldermen, and other officers. In the town hall is a fine historical picture of the surrender of Calais, painted by Mr. Pine, for which he obtained the first premium of a hundred guineas, from the society for Encouragement of Arts, which was purchased by the corporation of Newbury in the year 1762.

The late Earl of Craven built a very stately pile of buildings for his own dwelling, at Hampstead-Marshal, near Newbury, which was burnt down by a sudden fire some years ago. It is said that this nobleman built this magnificent palace at a time when he had hopes of marrying Madame Royale, as she was then called, viz. the Queen of Bohemia, sister to King Charles I. who was then a widow, and lived under the shadow of the English court, but the Earl being frustrated in that view, never completed the building. It has since been rebuilt

rebuilt by his present lordship, though not in so magnificent a manner as at first.

Dunnington Castle, stands on an eminence, about a mile from Newbury, half a mile from Spinham Lands, and a small distance from the little village of Dunnington; it is north of all these places, and not far from the rivulet of Lambourne.

By a manuscript in the Cotton Library, it appears, that in the time of Edward the Second, it belonged to Walter Abberbury, son and heir of Thomas Abberbury, who gave the King a consideration for it; and towards the latter part of the reign of King Richard II, Sir Richard Atterbury, or Abberbury, who was a favourite of that King, obtained a licence to rebuild it; from him it descended to his son Richard, of whom, according to *Urry*, it was purchased by that Prince of English Poets, *Geoffry Chaucer*.

Hither, about the year 1397, in the seventieth year of his age, that Bard retired in order to taste the sweets of contemplation and rural quiet, having spent the greatest part of his life in the hurry of business, and intrigues of a court; during which time he had experienced the mutability of fortune. Here he spent the last two or three years of his life in a felicity he had not before known; but on the death of the King, going to court, to solicit the continuation of some grants, he sickened, and died in London, in the year 1400.

Bishop *Gibson*, in his edition of *Camden*, says, "Here was an oak standing till within these few years, commonly called Chaucer's Oak, under which he is said to have penned many of his poems;" and Mr. *Urry*, relating the above circumstance adds, "Mr. *Evelyn* gives the following account of this tree; and says, there were three of them planted by Chaucer; the King's oak, the Queen's oak, and Chaucer's

Chaucer's oak. The first of these traditions is, in all likelihood, a mistake, as most, if not all of Chaucer's poems, were written before he retired to this place; but the latter (namely, that he studied under an oak of his own planting at Dunnington) is an absolute impossibility, seeing that he was not in possession of this estate above three years."

His son, Thomas Chaucer, who had been chief butler to King Richard the Second, and several times Ambassador to France, succeeded to the castle; with his daughter Alice, it went to her third husband, William de la Pole, first Earl, and afterwards Duke of Suffolk, who resided chiefly here, and at Ewelme. This Lord, abusing the power he had over that weak prince, Henry the Sixth, enraged the Commons so much, that they procured his banishment; and the partizans of the Duke of York, dreading his return, seized him in Dover road, whilst on his passage, and cut off his head on the side of a cock-boat. His body was buried at the Chartreu Seat at Hull. At his decease the castle came to his son John, and from him descended to Edmund de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the last of that name, who engaging in treasonable practices against Henry the Seventh, was executed, and his estates consequently escheated to the crown; where Dunnington remained, at least, till the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII. as appears by an act of parliament then passed, whereby that King was authorized to erect his castle of Dunnington, with three other places therein named, into as many honours, and to annex to them such lands as he should think proper.

It afterwards came into the possession of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, probably by the grant of Henry VIII. and was entire in *Camden's* time, who thus describes it: "A small but very neat

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castle,

castle, seated on the brow of a woody hill, having a fine prospect, and windows on all sides, very light-some.

In the reign of King James I. it belonged to a family of the name of Packer; and in the time of the Civil wars, was owned by Mr. John Packer, when it was fortified as a garrison for the King, and the government entrusted to Colonel Boys, being a post of great importance, commanding the high road leading from the west to London, and that from Oxford to Newbury.

During these troubles it was twice besieged: once on the 31st of July 1644, by Lieutenant-General Middleton, who was repulsed with the loss of one Colonel, eight Captains, one Serjeant-Major, and many inferior officers and soldiers: and again on the 27th of September in the same year, by Colonel Horton, who raising a battery against it, at the foot of a hill near Newbury, fired upwards of a thousand shots, by which he demolished three of the towers, and a part of the wall. During this attack, the governor, in a sally, beat the enemy out of their trenches, and killed a Lieutenant-colonel and the chief engineer, with many private men. At length, after a siege of thirteen days, the place was relieved by the King, who, at Newbury, rewarded the governor with the honour of Knighthood.

After the second battle of Newbury, the King retired towards Oxford in the night, left his heavy baggage, ammunition and artillery here. The place was summoned by the parliamentary generals, who threatened, that if it was not surrendered, they would not leave one stone upon another. To this Sir John Boys returned no other answer than, "That he was not bound to repair it; but, however, would, by God's help, keep the ground afterwards."

afterwards." This was the favourable moment for totally ruining the King's affairs; but the Earl of Manchester and Sir William Waller, suffered it to escape; either on account of a disagreement between them, or for some other reason, nothing farther was done; and the King, a few days afterwards, came unexpectedly, at the head of a body of horse, and escorted his artillery and baggage to Oxford.

After the civil war was over, Mr. Packer pulled down the ruinous parts of the building, and with the materials erected the house standing under it, now in the occupation of Mark Basket, Esq. The castle at present belongs to Dr. Hartley, who married the heiress of the name of Packer.

The walls of this castle nearly fronted the four Cardinal points of the compass; having the north and south sides perpendicular on its east end. These sides were consequently parallel. Its west end terminated in a semi-octagon, inscribed in the half of a long oval. It was defended by four round towers, two on the angles, formed by the concurrence of the north and south sides with the east end: and two others placed on the angles, formed by the junction of the same sides, with the semi-poligon.

The length of the east end, including the towers, was eighty-five feet, and the extent, from east to west, reckoning the thickness of the walls, one hundred and twenty feet.

Near the north-west tower was a well; and in the south-east angle a square building, whose sides measured twenty-four feet; two of these sides were formed by the exterior wall, and inclosed the tower.

The entrance was at the east end, through a stone gate-house, having a passage forty feet long; at the end of which is remaining the place for the portcullis.

portcullis. It is flanked by two round towers; that on the south-side has a stair-case. This gate is now standing. In it is held the manor court. On its west side a small drinking room has lately been added by the proprietor.

Round about, and almost occupying the whole eminence, are the modern works thrown up for the defence of the castle. These explain and justify the speech of Sir John Boys, which otherwise, considering its state at that time, would have been mere rodomontade.

Their shape is that of an irregular pentagon, the greatest angle fronting the south, on which was a very capacious bastion. There was another, but smaller, on the north-west angle; and on the north east side was defended by a demi-bastion, placed on its southern extremity. From the gorge of the great southern bastion, to the salient angle of the demi-bastion, ran a double, and from thence to the north-east angle of the pentagon a triple rampart. The road passed through these works close to the gate of the castle.

From Newbury the road passes on to

Hungerford, formerly called *Ingleford*. It is situated in a moorish place, on the river Kennet, and is a great thoroughfare to Bath and Bristol, and is noted for the plenty of trout and cray-fish that is caught in this river. This town, though so small, gave name and title to the ancient family of the Hungerfords, who possessed a vast estate hereabouts and in the neighbouring counties. This family was first raised by Walter Hungerford, who was chosen the first Speaker of the House of Commons, in the 51st. of Edward III. The attachment of this family to the House of Lancaster, occasioned their estates to be twice forfeited. The famous
Lord

Lord Hastings, to whom this estate fell by a daughter of the Hungerfords, was beheaded in the reign of Richard III. and that prince granted it to John Howard, the first Duke of Norfolk, who falling with his master in the battle of Bosworth-field, King Henry VII. restored it, with its honours to a younger branch of the Hungerfords, who had joined him, and shared in the glory of that victory, but one of his descendants suffered death for treason, the 31st. of Henry the Eighth, and was the third of the family who died for that crime. In the reign of Queen Mary, this family were restored to their estates and titles again.

This town is governed by a Constable, who is chosen annually, and for the time being is Lord of the Manor. The inhabitants have the liberty of the Royal fishing in a certain part of the river, which was granted to them by John of Gaunt, who also gave them a horn, holding about a quart, which has an inscription on it, which confirms this grant.

Another road parts off from Newbury, to the town of

Lambourn, or *Langbourn*, which takes its name from the little river which rises by it, and falls into the Kennet, near Thatcham. Here are two places of this name, divided into Upper and Lower Lambourn, of which the latter is biggest, and has been a market-town ever since the reign of King Henry III. The river which rises here is remarkable for its being high in summer and low in winter, the inhabitants say, the sooner it goes off, the more plentiful the season is like to be. The following four lines are taken from *Dubartas's* description of it, translated by *Silvester*:

*All Summer long, while all thy sisters shrink,
Then of thy waters, thousands daily drink,
But when the rest are full unto the top,
All Winter long, thou dost not shew a drop.*

Near *Wantage*, is the vale of *White-horse*, which we have mentioned before; and in a neighbouring parish, the inhabitants have a custom to go to this *White-horse* annually, at Midsummer, and weed it, in order to keep it in shape and colour, which done, they spend the remainder of the day in feasting, and merriment. This is called *Scouring the Horse*.

Westward of this vale and of the road from Lambourn to Farringdon, is

Ashbury, where is a seat of Lord Craven, the stones of which it is built, called *Sarden stone*, have been dug out of a Danish camp, near this place, and on the brow of a hill, east of *Ashbury*, and within a mile of *Wantage*, is another camp, which is, by Mr. *Camden*, supposed to be Roman, as it is of a quadrangular form, with single work.

Wantage, which is sixty miles from London, and from which its Hundred takes its name, is a pretty neat town, which deserves mentioning, for having been formerly a royal villa, the birth-place of King *Alfred*. The little river which runs by it is called *Och*.

North-east of *Wantage*, is

Abingdon, the road to which passes through part of Oxfordshire, and enters the county at Culham-bridge, near this town. It is situated fifty-six miles from the metropolis. This town is very ancient, and was formerly called *Shoveham*, and was noted in the time of the Britons, for the conversion of several Pagans

Pagans to Christianity, and was then the seat of the King, and afterwards in the Saxon age, it was famous for several Synods. This town took its name from its abbey, one of the most famous in England: it was founded about the year 675, by Heane nephew to Cissa, father to King Ina. The Danish inundation in the time of King Alfred, drove the monks away, but in the time of King Eldred, in the year 955, they returned again, together with Ethelwold, their Abbot, Bishop of Winchester. In the year 1084, after the Norman Conquest it was in so flourishing a condition as to be able to receive William the first at Easter, when he left his youngest son, Henry, to be educated here, under Robert Doyly, a great benefactor to this place. This abbey was destroyed at the general dissolution of the monasteries.

To make the town some amends for the loss of its abbey, the great road which used to be through Wallingford, was turned through this place in the year 1416, by the erecting of Culham and Burford Bridges, an act of parliament being promoted for that purpose by Mr. *Barbour*, a merchant of this town, who gave a thousand marks to the finishing of the said bridges and the causeways betwixt them, employing the best artists he could get, at one penny a day wages, which was reckoned an extraordinary price in those days, when wheat was sold at twelve-pence a quarter.

Abington is a well built market-town, where the assizes and sessions, and other public meetings of the county are sometimes held. Here formerly was a fine cross erected, in the reign of Henry VI. which, together with a market-house just by it, were destroyed in the civil wars, but the loss of this has been somewhat supplied by a new market-house of most curious ashly workmanship, being
built

built on lofty pillars, and supposed to surpass any other in the kingdom.

This town consists of several well-paved streets, which centre in a spacious area, where a considerable market is held for corn, barley, &c. great quantities of malt are made here, which they send in barges to London. It is governed by a Mayor, two Bailiffs and nine Aldermen, and sends one Member to Parliament. Here is a good free-school, and also a charity-school founded in the year 1563, by John Royse, Esq.

Warringford, forty-six miles from London, in the road to Wantage, is situated on the borders of Oxfordshire, on the river Thames, over which it has a stone bridge. Its name is supposed to have been derived from the British *Gwall ben*, i. e. the Old Fort. It was formerly the metropolis of the Atrebatii, and a place of great note in the time of the Romans, Saxons, and Danes. It was a borough in the time of Edward the Confessor, who is said to have built a castle here, the seat of one Wigod, the Lord of Wallingford, who yielded it to William the Conqueror, and entertained him in it. Brian, the second husband of Maud, a grand-daughter of Wigod's, held out a siege of this castle against King Stephen, till a peace was concluded here between Stephen and Henry II. It was repaired by Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, who kept his wedding here, at which he entertained the King, Queen, and nobility; but at another feast here, after his dedication of the monastery of Hales in Gloucestershire, he declared in the presence of their Majesties, and a numerous company, "that he wished all his great expences in the castle of Wallingford had been as wisely employed as the ten thousand marks expended on that monastery."

This town is governed by a Mayor, Burgesses, &c. and sends two Members to Parliament. It is large

large and well built, has a good market-place and town-hall, where the assizes have been sometimes held, and a quarter sessions of the borough always. It has still two churches standing, one of which was very much damaged in the civil wars, when two others here were altogether destroyed.

Richard of Wallingford, Abbot of St. Alban's, is said to have been born here. He was a famous mathematician, and the inventor of a clock that shewed not only the course of the sun, moon and fixed stars, but the ebbing and flowing of the sea.

From Abingdon, the road runs directly west to *Farringdon*, which is seventy-one miles from London. It is situated extremely pleasant, on an eminence, near the river Ouse. Here was formerly a castle built by Robert Earl of Gloucester, which was taken by King Stephen, at his usurpation in the year 1202. He founded a priory of Cistercian monks, subject to the Abbey of Beaulieu: both this and the castle are now entirely destroyed, nor are there the smallest relics remaining of their former grandeur. The church is a large handsome structure; the town is neat and clean, has a good weekly market, and is governed by a bailiff.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

OXFORDSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the east with Buckinghamshire, on the west with Gloucestershire, on the north, where it terminates in the form of a Cone, it has Northamptonshire on one side, and Warwickshire on the other; and on the south it is separated from Berkshire by the river Isis, as far as Dorchester, and from thence by the Thames, from Cleydon on the north-west to Caversham on the south east. It is forty-two miles in length, twenty-six in breadth from Cleydon on the north to Farringdon on the south, and, according to Mr. *Templeman's* calculation, contains six hundred and sixty-three square miles. It sends nine members to parliament, two for the county, two for the city, two for its university, two for New Woodstock, and one for Banbury. The chief of its rivers are, the Thames, the Tame, and the Charvel, of which the two last run into the first, the Evenlade and Windrush. Its hills were well shaded with woods till the civil wars, in which they were so destroyed, that few places have any to shew, which renders part of the country bleak and unpleasant, which might be remedied, as it is strong enough for any kind of trees, and might therefore
be

be ornamented with fine plantations, which would yield considerable profit in a country where firing is so scarce, there being but little wood, and the coals brought from Gloucester are sold at twenty-five shillings a ton.

There are several roads which lead to Oxford, one called the Uxbridge, and which enters this county at Stoken-church, where, from the top of a hill the eye commands a beautiful and extensive prospect. Another road passes thro' Maidenhead and enters Oxfordshire at Henley, which is said to be the most ancient town of the whole county; its name is derived from the British word *Hen*, which signifies Old, and *Ley*, a Place. It is a well built town, most pleasantly situated on the side of the river Thames, thirty-five miles from London. It has a considerable market for corn and malt, and the inhabitants, who are mostly meal-men, maltsters and barge-men, get a decent living by carrying corn and timber to London. Here is a wooden bridge, which is said to have been antiently built of stone; here is a good free grammar-school, founded and endowed by King James I. as also another, called the Blue-coat school, by the Lady Elizabeth Priam, for teaching, cloathing, and putting several poor children out apprentices; here is also an alms-house, but so meanly endowed, that though there are not above six or seven persons in it, their allowance is but sixpence a week.

Near this town, Dr. Plot is of opinion, the Ancalites were situated, a people who revolted to Cæsar; and it is probable that Henly was the chief town, if it is so ancient as it is thought to be.

Dorchester, forty-nine miles and a half from London, seems to have been a place of great antiquity, and known to the Romans, by the coins found hereabouts. It derives its name from the British *Dour*, i. e. Water, and *Cester*, a City, and was once the

the seat of Birinus, a Bishop of the West Saxons in the year 614; it retained the honour of an episcopal see, till in the reign of William the Conqueror it was translated to Lincoln. Here was formerly an Abbey of regular Canons, founded by Alexander Bishop of Lincoln, part of which was bought by a rich person of this place at the dissolution, and given to augment the parish church, and here formerly were five stately parish churches, though at present it is only a small and almost deserted village. The inhabitants here have a vulgar tradition, that no snakes will live in this parish, and the oldest men say, they never saw any venomous creatures in this district, and that they have heard their fathers say the same.

Eastward of Dorchester, is the town of *Watlington*, about forty-six miles from London, which appears to be of no small antiquity, by its name, which imports an old British city.

A little farther is

Brightwell, where several Roman antiquities have been dug up; for the particular account of which, we refer the reader to Dr. *Plot's* History of Oxfordshire.

Leaving Dorchester, we pass through *Newenham*, a small neat village, the houses of which have been handsomely rebuilt of brick within these few years, with proper distances between each, and standing in a direct line on each side of the road: from hence we come to

Oxford, fifty-five miles from London, situated in a fruitful and pleasant valley, on the banks of the river *Isis*. It is encompassed on the east west and south, with a ridge of hills, which command a most delightful prospect; the town enjoys a healthful air, and is very large and populous; but what principally distinguishes this city, is its noble University, so remarkable for its antiquity, that it is said

said to have been known among the Romans by the name of *Bellostium*.

As Oxford abounds so greatly with public buildings, each of which is replete with a multiplicity of curiosities, it would therefore exceed our bounds to give a circumstantial account of every article, for which reason we shall only mention the most remarkable and worthy of notice, as concisely as the bounds of our work will allow; and first for the public buildings which belongs to the University.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

It is situated about the middle of the north side of the high street, and the public sermons of the University are preached here on Sundays and holidays. This church was rebuilt in its present form in the reign of Henry VII. Here is a throne for the Vice-chancellor, seats for the Doctors, heads of houses and young noblemen; benches in the area for the Masters of Arts, and galleries for the under Graduates and Batchelors of Arts; the tower, with its spire is a noble and beautiful fabrick, an hundred and eighty feet in height, and richly ornamented with pinacles, niches, and statues, which, as Dr. Plot informs us, were added by King, the first Bishop of Oxford, in the reign of Henry VIII. It contains six remarkable large bells, by which the proper notice is given for scholastic exercises, convocations, and congregations. On the south side is a portal of more modern structure, erected by Dr. Morgan Owen, chaplain to archbishop Laud, in the year 1637; over it is a statue of the Virgin with an infant Christ, holding a small crucifix; which last circumstance was formed into an article of impeachment, against the archbishop, by the Presbyterians,

Presbyterians, and urged as a corroborating proof of his attachment to Popery.

The RADCLIFF LIBRARY

Was founded by Dr. *Radcliff*, the first stone was laid May 17, 1737, and the Library was opened April 13, 1749, with great solemnity. It is situated in the middle of an ample and superb square, formed by St. Mary's church, the schools, Brazen Nose and All Souls colleges. The building stands in arcades, which circularly disposed, enclose a spacious dome in the centre, from whence we pass a well executed flight of spiral steps into the library itself. This room, which is a complete pattern of elegance and majesty, rises into a capacious dome, ornamented with fine compartments of stucco; the pavement is of two colours, and made of peculiar species of stone, brought from Hartz forest in Germany. The room is enclosed with a circular series of arches, beautified with festoons, and supported with pilasters of the Ionic order; behind these arches are formed two circular galleries, above and below, where the books are disposed in elegant cabinets; the compartments of the ceiling, in the upper galleries are finely stuccoed: over the door, at our entrance is a statue of the founder, by Rysbrac; which is most advantageously viewed from the point opposite to it: in the last mentioned gallery, over the entrance of one of the galleries, is a good bust of Gibbes the architect: in a word, the finishing and decorations of the attic edifice are all in the highest taste imaginable.

The Librarian, according to the founder's appointment, is nominated by the great officers of state.

The

The SCHOOLS

Form a magnificent quadrangle. The principal front on the outside is about an hundred and seventy-five feet in length, in the centre of which is a noble tower, whose highest apartments are appointed for astronomical observations, and other philosophical experiments. The inside of this part must please every lover of ancient grandeur. Three sides of the upper story of the quadrangle are one entire room, called the picture gallery. This is chiefly furnished with valuable portraits of founders and benefactors, and of other eminent men; as also with cabinets of medals, and cases of books. It was wainscotted by the munificence of Dr. *Butler*, the late president of Magdalen college, and the late Duke of Beaufort; about the middle of it stands a noble statue in brass, of Philip Earl of Pembroke, designed by Rubens, and cast by Hubert de Soeur, a Frenchman, the same who did the equestrian statue of Charles I. at Charing-cross. This room is in reality a part or continuation of the Bodleian Library. Under it are the schools of the several sciences, in one of which are placed the Arundelian marbles; and in another that inimitable collection of statues, &c. lately presented to the University by the Countess of Pomfret, &c.

The first stone of the schools was laid the 30th of March, 1613, and the building was carried on at the combined expence of many benefactors.

The BODLEIAN, OR PUBLIC LIBRARY,

Is a part or member of the last mentioned edifice. It consists of three spacious and lofty rooms, disposed in the form of a Roman H. The middle room was erected by Humphry Duke of Gloucester,
over

over the divinity school, about the year 1440, and by him furnished with books, all which have been since lost. The gallery on the west was raised at the expence of the University, under the Chancellorship of Archbishop Laud, together with the Convocation-house beneath. The virtibule, or first gallery, with the profcholium under it, was built by Sir Thomas Bodley, who furnished the whole with a collection made with prodigious care and expence. He likewise assigned for the maintenance of a Librarian, &c.

Having visited the library, we should not neglect the Divinity School, which stands under the same roof, as I hinted before. It was begun at the expence of the University, in the year 1427, and afterwards compleated, with its superstructure by Duke Humphrey. Its cieling is a most finished piece of masonry, both in design and execution; and on the whole, it is probably the most compleat Gothic room in the kingdom: at the end of it is the Convocation-house, which is a spacious room, commodiously furnished, and handsomely decorated. It was built with its superstructure, in the year 1639.

The THEATRE.

Opposite to the Divinity school stands the front of the Theatre, adorned with Corinthian pillars, and two statues of Archbishop Sheldon and the Duke of Ormond, with other decorations. At our entrance the mind is suddenly and strongly struck with ideas of majesty and grace; but this room exhibits the most august appearance when properly filled, it is equally disposed to contain and shew to advantage a large and solemn assembly. The Vice-chancellor with the two proctors, are seated in the centre of the semi-circular part; on each hand are

the young noblemen and Doctors, the Masters of Arts in the area; the rest of the University, and strangers of both sexes are placed in the galleries; the roof is flat, and not being supported either by columns or arched work, rests on the side walls, which are at the distance of eighty feet one way, and seventy the other. This roof is covered with allegorical paintings, done by Strater, Serjeant Painter to King Charles II. but the colours as well as the canvass, having been greatly injured by time, the work was cleaned and repaired in 1762, by Mr. Kettle, an ingenious Portrait Painter of London; at which time the whole inside was decorated with new gilding, painting and other ornaments, at the expence of one thousand pounds, so that this is now universally allowed to be the most superb and splendjd room in Europe.

Besides the ceiling, the room is furnished with three admirable full length portraits, of Archbishop Sheldon, the Duke of Ormond above-mentioned, and Sir Christopher Wren. Nor should we forget to mention a good statue of Charles II. on the outside of the circular part, the edifice being somewhat in the form of a Roman D.

This beautiful structure was erected from the design of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1669, at the expence of Archbishop Sheldon, then Chancellor, who, having bestowed fifteen thousand pounds in building it, endowed it with two thousand pounds to purchase lands for its perpetual repair.

The ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM.

Westward of the Theatre stands the Ashmolean Museum, so called from its founder, Elias Ashmole, Esq. Windsor Herald in the reign of Charles II. This munificent patron of learning, in the year

year 1677, made an offer to bestow upon the University all the rarities he had purchased from the two Tradescants, successively physic-gardeners at Lambeth; together with his own collection of coins, manuscripts, &c. on condition that they should build a fabric for their reception. The building was accordingly erected, and finished in the year 1682, under the conduct of Sir Christopher Wren. It is inferior to no modern edifice in point of symmetry and elegance. Its front towards the street is about sixty feet in length. The eastern portico is remarkably well finished in the Corinthian order, and adorned with variety of characteristical embellishments. This piece of architecture is deservedly reckoned equal to any in the University; though, like many others, it is so much crowded by the neighbouring buildings, that the spectator cannot command a proper view of it.

In pursuance of his promise, Ashmole presented to the University a large and valuable collection of natural bodies, together with his coins and manuscripts; he also bequeathed at his death three gold chains, one of philigrain work, consisting of sixty links, weighing twenty-two ounces, with a medal of the Duke of Brandenburg; the other a collar of S's, with a medal of the late King of Denmark; the third a chain of equal weight and value, with a medal of the Emperor Joseph, all which he had received as honorary presents on occasion of his book concerning the Order of the Garter.

The museum has been greatly enriched since its first foundation, by several ample and valuable benefactions. The chief natural curiosities, are a large collection of bodies, horns, bones, &c. of animals, preserved dry or in spirits; numerous specimens of minerals and metals; shells, especially those of Dr. Martin Lister, mentioned in his History of the Animals of England, quarto, together with his
ores,

ores, fossils, &c. many of which are described in the Philosophical Transactions, or in the pieces published by that ingenious naturalist.

It contains also a small but well chosen collection of exotic plants, sent from the East Indies by James Pound, M. B. But it has been chiefly indebted to the care and munificence of its two first Keepers, Dr. Robert Plot, and Mr. Edward Lhwyd; the former of which gave all the natural bodies mentioned in his Histories of the Counties of Stafford and Oxon, and the latter the large collections he had made in his travels through the greatest part of England, Wales and Ireland.

Amongst the curiosities of nature must be reckoned the large magnet given to the Museum by the Right Hon. the Countess of Westmoreland, the Lady of our late Chancellor. It is of an oval shape, its longer diameter eighteen inches, its shorter twelve, and supports a weight of an hundred and forty-five pounds. It is inclosed in an elegant case of mahogany, made at his lordship's expence, and may be justly deemed one of the greatest ornaments, as well as rarieties of this place.

Nor is this repository deficient in a good collection of antiquities; such as urns, statues, sacrificial vessels, and utensils; it being possessed of most of those described in the Britannia, by Bishop Gibson, pag. 695, 1^o.02. Here are also many Grecian, Roman, and Saxon coins, the gift of the founder and Thomas Braithwaite, Esq.

Amongst the works of art, the model of a ship given by Dr. Clark, and a picture representing our Saviour going to his crucifixion, made of feathers, deserve particular notice; also a very ancient piece of St. Cuthbert, made by order of King Alfred, and worn, as is supposed, by that monarch. Here are also some other good paintings.

Besides

Besides the room in which the curiosities are deposited, there are three small libraries; the first called by the name of Ashmole's Study, containing his printed books and manuscripts, chiefly relating to matters of heraldry and antiquity; in which also are the manuscripts of Sir William Dugdale, author of the *Monasticon*, &c. The second is that of Dr. Lister, consisting of printed books in physic, and the best editions of the classics, in which also are preserved the copper-plates, belonging to the *History of Shells*, published by that author, of which a new and improved edition has been lately printed at the expence of the University. The last is that of Anthony Wood, containing the valuable manuscript collection of that learned and laborious antiquarian.

In the room on the first floor, lectures are read in experimental philosophy. Underneath is an elaboratory for courses of chymistry and anatomy.

The care and direction of the Museum is vested in six visitors, viz. the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Christ-church, the Principal of Brazen Nose, the King's Professor of Physic, and the two Proctors for the time being. These have the nomination of the head keeper, and meet annually on Trinity-Monday, to inspect the state of the collection, and to pass the accounts. Ashmole designed to have endowed his foundation with ample revenues, and has in his statutes expressed the sums appointed for this purpose, namely, fifty pounds per ann. for the head keeper, fifteen pounds to the librarian, and five pounds for an assistant; but this generous intention was never put into execution; so that the profits at present arise only from the gratuities given by strangers for the exhibition of the curiosities, which fall greatly short of the original design.

The

The CLARENDON PRINTING-HOUSE.

Is almost contiguous to the Theatre. It is a magnificent structure, consisting of two stories, and is one hundred and fifteen feet in length. The street front has a noble Doric portico, whose columns equal the height of the first story. The back front is adorned with three quarter columns of the same dimensions, and a statue of the Earl of Clarendon. Over the top of the building are statues of the nine Muses. As we enter from the schools, on the right-hand, are two rooms where Bibles and books of Common Prayer are printed: Over these are large and elegant apartments, rented of the University by Mess. Wright and Gill of London. The left side consists of rooms for the University Press; together with one well executed apartment, adorned with an excellent portrait of Queen Anne, by Kneller, appointed for the meetings of the Heads of Houses and Delegates.

This edifice was built A. D. 1711, by the profits arising from the sale of Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion; the copy of which had been presented to the University by his sons, the Lords Clarendon and Rochester.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Was founded A. D. 1456, by William Patten, a native of Wainfleet, in Lincolnshire, from whence he has been usually stiled William of Wainfleet. It was erected on the site of St. John's Hospital, in remembrance of which a sermon is annually preached in the college on St. John's Day. Part of the original walls of the said hospital are still to be seen on the south side of the chapel; it is situated without the east gate of the city, on the borders of the river Cherwell. A Doric portal, decorated

rated with the statue of the founder, introduces us to the west front of the college, which is a striking specimen of the Gothic manner. The gate under the west window of the chapel demands a minute examination. It is adorned with five small but elegant figures; that on the right represents the founder; the next is of William of Wykeham, in whose college at Winchester the founder was school-master; the third is St. Mary Magdalen, to whom the College is dedicated; the fourth is Henry III. who founded the hospital, since converted into this college; and the last, St. John the Baptist, by whose name the said hospital was called.

On the left, are the lodgings of the president, lately much enlarged and improved. Nearly contiguous to these is a stately gate-way, the entrance into the college, but since disused, formed in a tower, whose sides are adorned with statues of four the persons above-mentioned. It has been observed that the slender arches, separate and distinct from the other curve mouldings, in this and the chapel gateway were formerly esteemed curious masonry; but it should be remembered, that curious masonry was no more common three centuries ago, than at present. It must however be allowed, that they relieve the work, and have an elegant effect.

From this area we pass into a cloister which surrounds a venerable old quadrangle. On the south are the chapel and hall. We enter the chapel on the right hand at entering the cloister. The anti-chapel is spacious, supported by two staff moulded pillars, extremely light, where a new pulpit of elegant workmanship, in the Gothic stile, together with seats on each side, have lately been erected. In the west window are some fine remains of glass painted in clara obscura. The subject is the Resurrection. The design is after one invented and

and executed by Schwartz, for the wife of William Duke of Bavaria, more than two hundred years since, which was afterwards engraved by Saddler. The choir is solemn and handsomely decorated. The windows, each of which contain six figures almost as large as life, of primitive Fathers, Saints, Martyrs, and Apostles, are finely painted in the taste and about the time of that just described. The windows formerly belonged to the anti-chapel, the two near the altar excepted, which were lately done, being all removed hither, A. D. 1741. In the confusion of the civil wars, the original choir windows were taken down and concealed; they did not, however, escape the rage of fanaticism and ignorance, they were unluckily discovered by some of Cromwell's troops, who spreading them along the cloisters, jumped upon them in their jack-boots, with the utmost satisfaction, and entirely destroyed them. The altar-piece was performed by Isaac Fuller, about ninety years ago. It represents the Resurrection, and I suspect, never received the last finishing. It evidently wants grace and composition, and has too much of the Flemish colouring and expression. Many of the figures are, however, finely drawn. This painting is elegantly celebrated by Mr. Addison, formerly a student of this house, in a Latin poem, printed in the *Musæ Anglicanæ*. Under this piece is another admirable picture of our Lord bearing the Cross, supposed to be the work of Guido. It was taken at Vigo, and being brought into England by the late Duke of Ormond, came into the possession of William Freeman, Esq. of Hamels in Hartfordshire, who gave it the society. The altar is fitted up in the modern style, with a well executed wainscot, and columns of the Corinthian order, charged with other elegant embellishments. It is designed to wainscot the whole choir in the same manner.

Choir

Choir service is performed in this chapel at eleven and four every day, except that on Sundays and holidays, the morning service is sung at eight, as it is in all the choirs of the University.

The hall is a stately Gothic toom, well proportioned and handsomely finished. It has four whole length portraits, viz. of the founder, Dr. Butler, William Freeman, Prince Rupert, and two half lengths, viz. Bishop Warner, and Dr. Hammond.

Great pains have been taken to unriddle the latent meaning of the hieroglyphics which surround the cloister. Some affirm, that they are nothing more than the licentious invention of the mason, while others as warmly contend, that they contain a compleat system of academical discipline.

From this court, through a narrow passage on the north, we are led into a beautiful opening; one side of which is bounded by a noble and elegant edifice, in the modern taste, consisting of three stories, three hundred feet in length. The front rests on an arcade, whose roof is finely stuccoed. It is intended to add two other sides; but as the present opening to the meadows and hills on the right, produces so charming an effect, we could almost wish the college would never execute their design. Through the centre of this building, we pass into the grove or paddock, which is formed into many delightful walks and lawns, and stocked with about thirty or forty head of deer.

No college enjoys a more agreeable or extensive environ. Besides the grove just mentioned, there is a meadow within the college precincts, consisting of about thirteen acres, surrounded by a pleasant walk, (called the Water Walk.) The whole circuit of the walk is washed by branches of the Cherwell, and has many pretty rural prospects. This walk is shaded with hedge and lofty trees, which in one part grow wild, and in the other are

cut and disposed regularly. A beautiful opening has lately been made on the west side into the college grove, by demolishing the old embattled walls on the banks of the river.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Is said to have been founded by King Alfred, A. D. 872. Its magnificent front is extended upwards of two hundred and sixty feet along the south side of the high street. In it, at due distances, are two stately portals, with a tower over each. That on the west leads into the old court, which is a handsome Gothic quadrangle, of eleven hundred feet square. Over the gate, at our entrance on the out-side, is a statue of Queen Anne, and within another of James II. Over the eastern entrance, on the out-side, is also an admirable statue of Queen Mary, wife of William III. On the south side of the western quadrangle, are the chapel and hall, the statue of St. Cuthbert is over the gate of the chapel, and that of Alfred at the entrance of the hall. The altar window was given by Dr. Radcliffe, as appears by its inscription, A. D. 1687. The roof of the chapel is a well wrought frame of Norway oak; the hall has been lately fitted up in a very beautiful Gothic style, at the expence of a great many generous contributions, and is a most complete room of the kind. It is of the age of the chapel.

From this court, through a narrow passage on the east, we are led into another area of three sides. It is opened to a garden on the south. The east, and part of the north side, is taken up by the lodgings of the Master, which are commodious and extensive. In a niche over the gate on the north, is a statue of Dr. Radcliffe. The sides of this court are about eighty feet. This college is said to have been founded by King Alfred, A. D. 872.

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As to the buildings, the present spacious splendid and uniform structure, began to be erected in the year 1624, by the benefaction of Charles Greenwood, formerly Fellow, and was soon carried on by Sir Simon Bennet above mentioned. Nor were succeeding patrons wanting to continue so noble a work; till it was finally compleated by Dr. John Radcliffe, who erected the whole eastern quadrangle entirely at his own expence. He likewise settled on the college six hundred pounds per annum, for two travelling Fellowships.

The present society consists of a Master, twelve Fellows, seventeen Scholars, with many other Students, amounting in the whole to near seventy. Visitor the King.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,

Opposite to University College, on the north side of the High Street, stands Queen's College. The front, which is formed in the stile of the Luxemburgh palace, is at once magnificent and elegant. In the middle of it is a superb cupola, the construction of which is by some thought too heavy for the rest. Under it is a statue of the late Queen Caroline.

The first court is one hundred and forty feet in length, and one hundred and thirty in breath. A beautiful cloister surrounds this court, except on the north side. Over the western cloister are the Provost's lodgings, which are spacious and splendid. The north side is formed by the chapel and hall, and finely finished in the Doric order. In the centre, over a portico leading to the north court, stands a handsome cupola, supported by eight Ionic columns.

The chapel is one hundred feet long, and thirty broad. It is ornamented in the Corinthian order,
with

with a beautiful cieling of fret-work. The windows are all of fine old painted glass, viz. 1518; that over the altar excepted, representing our Lord's Nativity, which was executed by Mr. Price, in the year 1717. The most remarkable are two on the north side, of the last Judgment, and two on the south of the Ascension. These with the rest, were removed hither from the old chapel. There is an Ascension in the roof by Sir Thomas Thornhill.

The hall is fitted up in the Doric order, and has an admirable proportion. It is sixty feet long, and thirty broad, with an arched roof of a correspondent height. It is furnished with excellent portraits of the founder and benefactors. Over the screen is a handsome gallery, intended for music, and as a vestibule to the common room, to which it leads.

The north court is a hundred and thirty feet long, and ninety broad. On the west stands the Library, which is of the Corinthian order. Under the east side of this edifice runs a cloyster; its west side is adorned with statues of the founder and benefactors, and other pieces of sculpture. The room within is highly finished. The book-cases, which are of Norway oak, are decorated with well-wrought carving, and in the cieling are some admirable compartments of stucco.

The whole area, on which this beautiful College, which is one entire piece of well executed modern architecture, stands, is an oblong square, three hundred feet in length, and two hundred and twenty in breadth; which, being divided by the hall and chapel, is formed into the two courts just described.

Robert Eggesfield, a native of Cumberland, and Confessor to Queen Philippa, founded this College in the year 1346, for one Provost and twelve
Fellows,

Fellows, to be chosen from the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. The benefactors have been very numerous. The chief of them are Edward III. and his Queen Philippa, from whom it was called *Queen's College*; King Charles I. who gave six advowsons; Sir Joseph Williamson, Knt. and Drs. Lancaster and Halton, formerly Provosts; Sir Francis Bridgman, Lady Betty Hastings, &c.

The present edifice was begun by Sir Joseph Williamson, Knt. abovementioned, 1672, who was a most munificent contributor; and been continued by the liberality of several intermediate benefactors, was at length completed by the noble legacy of Mr. Mitchell of Richmond, who likewise founded eight Fellowships and four Scholarships. These Fellows and Scholars have handsome apartments appropriated to them in the new buildings, besides an annual stipend of fifty pounds to each of the former; and thirty pounds per annum to each of the latter. This foundation was first filled up by election from other colleges of the University on the 26th of October, 1764.

The custom of ushering in the Boar's Head, with a song on Christmas-day, is, at present, peculiar to this college: but it was formerly practiced all over the kingdom; and the carol here sung on this occasion, is literally the same with that which was once universally used, except some few *local* alterations.

The College consists, at present, of a Provost, sixteen Fellows, two Chaplains, eight Taberdars, so called from *Taberdum*, a short gown which they formerly wore, sixteen Scholars, two Clerks, and forty exhibitioners: to these we may add, the members of Mr. Mitchell's new foundation, just mentioned. The number of students of every sort is above an hundred. Visitor. The Archbishop of York.

ALL SOUL'S COLLEGE.

Is situated in the High Street, westward of Queen's College. Over the gate-way are the statues of the founders Henry Chichely, and Henry the Sixth.

The first, or old court, is a decent Gothic edifice, one hundred and twenty-four feet in length, and seventy-two in breadth. The chapel on the north side is a stately pile. The Ante-chapel, in which are some remarkable monuments, is seventy feet long and thirty broad. We enter the inner chapel, which is of the same dimensions, by a grand flight of marble steps, through a screen constructed by Sir Christopher Wren. The spacious environ of the altar consists of the richest red-vein marble. Above is a fine assumption piece of the founder, by Sir James Thornhill. On the right and left, at our approach to the altar, are two inimitable urns by the same hand, respectively representing in their bas-reliefs, the institution of the two Sacraments. Between the windows, on each side, are figures of saints in clara-obscura, bigger than the life. The cieling is disposed into compartments embellished with carving and gilding. The whole has an air of much splendor and dignity, and is viewed to the best advantage from the screen.

The hall, which forms one side of an area to the east, is an elegant modern room. It is furnished with portraits of the munificent founder, Colonel Codrington, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. At the high table is an historical piece by Sir James Thornhill, whose subject is the finding of the law.* The figure of Josias, rending his robe, is animated and expressive. Over the chimney-piece,

* Kings, 22. 11.

piece, which is handsomely executed in dove-coloured marble, is a bust of the founder; on one side is a bust of Linacre, formerly Fellow, a famous physician in the reign of Henry VIII. and on the other, of John Leland, a celebrated antiquarian and polite scholar, about the same reign, supposed to have been a member of this house. The rest of the room is adorned with an admirable series of busts from the antique.

The adjoining Buttery is worthy our observation; it is a well-proportioned room, of an oval form, having an arched roof of stone, ornamented with curious workmanship. It was built with the hall.

The second court is a magnificent Gothic quadrangle, an hundred and seventy-two feet in length, and an hundred and fifty-five in breadth. On the south are the chapel and hall; on the west a cloister, with a grand portico; on the north a library; and on the east, two superb Gothic towers, in the centre of which are a series of fine apartments.

The Library forms the whole north side of this court. It is two hundred feet in length, thirty in breadth, and forty in height; and finished in the most splendid and elegant manner. Its outside, in correspondence to the rest of the court, is Gothic. The room itself is furnished with two noble arrangements of book-cases, one above the other, supported by Doric and Ionic pilasters. The upper class is formed in a superb gallery, which surrounds three sides. About the middle of the room, on the north side, is a recess equal to the breadth of the whole room; and in its area is placed the statue of Colonel Codrington, the founder of the Library. The cieling, and spaces between the windows, are ornamented with the richest stucco, by Mr. Roberts. Over the gallery, a series of Bronzes is interchangeably disposed, consisting of vases,
and

and the busts of many eminent men, formerly Fellows of this house.

Before we quit this court, the Common Room deserves our notice ; which is a grand apartment, being a cube of twenty-six feet, and lighted by a large Venetian window. It is situated between the two towers above mentioned.

The Warden's lodgings, which front the High Street, are commodious and handsome, being formerly the dwelling-house of Dr. Clarke, formerly Fellow, and given by him for the use of the Wardens of this house successively.

This College was founded by Henry Chichely, a native of Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire, and one of Wykeham's original Fellows of New-College ; and, through a course of preferments, at length Archbishop of Canterbury ; for one Warden, forty Fellows, two Chaplains, three Clerks, and six Choristers, A. D. 1437. It is stiled in the charter, "*The College of the Souls of all the Faithful departed, &c.*" For the more liberal endowment of this society, the founder procured of Henry the VIth. a grant of the revenues of many of the dissolved alien priories. He expended, beside purchase-money for the site, &c. the sum of four thousand five hundred and forty-five pounds fifteen shillings and five pence, in the buildings of this College ; namely, the present old Court, and the original refectory, which, with a cloyster since removed, enclosed part of the area of the new quadrangle. At his decease he bequeathed it one hundred and thirty-four pounds six shillings and eight pence, and one hundred marks.

The principal benefactors are Colonel Christopher Codrington, Governor of the Leeward Islands, formerly Fellow, who, besides a valuable collection of books, granted by will six thousand pounds for building the Library, and added four thousand pounds

pounds for purchasing books : Dr. George Clarke, the late Duke of Wharton, Doddington Greville, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. Of the combined munificence of all, or most of these, the second court, above described, is an illustrious monument.

We must not omit a remarkable ceremony which is annually celebrated in this College; the solemn commemoration of the discovery of a mallard of an extraordinary size, in a drain, or sewer, at the time of digging for the foundation of the walls.

That learned Antiquarian, the Reverend Mr. Pointer, Rector of Slapton in Northamptonshire, had insinuated, that this mallard was, in fact, a Goose. A suggestion not less false than injurious; and which has been clearly confuted, from the authentic account which Thomas of Walsingham has given of every circumstance relating to the original detection of this wonderful bird, in a manuscript said to be repositied in the Bodleian Library. Whatever the real truth of this controversy may be, it is well known that every year, on the 14th day of January, an entertainment is provided in the evening, and an excellent old ballad, adapted to ancient music, is sung in remembrance of the mallard. This is called the *Mallard Night*.

This College consists of one Warden, forty Fellows, two Chaplains, three Clerks, and six Choristers. No independent students are admitted. Visitor. The Archbishop of Canterbury.

BRAZEN-NOSE COLLEGE

Constitutes the west side of the Radcliffe-square. It has two courts. The first, which is the original one, consists of the old lodgings of the Principal, and chambers of the Fellows and Students, and

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the Refectory, which is elegantly fitted up, and adorned with portraits. Over its portico are two antique busts; the one of Alfred, who built Little University Hall, or King's Hall, on the site of which the present College is partly founded; and the other of John Erigena, a Scotchman, who first read lectures in the said hall, in the year 882. Over the door, leading up to the Common Room, which was originally the chapel, is the following inscription, "A^o. xti 1509, et Reg. Hen. 8 pri^o."

"Nomine divino Lyncoln præsul, quoque Sutton,
"Hanc posuere petram Regis ad imperium.

i. e. "In the name of God, the Bishop of Lincoln
"and Sutton, laid this stone, at the command of
"the King." In the centre of this court is a statue of Cain and Abel.

We enter the second court through a passage on the left hand of the gate of the first. It is planned in a good taste, and was probably the work of Sir Christopher Wren. The cloister on the east side, supports the Library. On the south stands the Chapel, which is at once neat and splendid. The roof, which being a frame of wood, is an admirable imitation of Gothic stone-work, and the altar, with its decorations, particularly demand our attention. It was finished in the year 1667, as was the whole court. An elegant house, connected with the college, and fronting the High Street, has been lately fitted up at a considerable expence, for the Principal.

This college was founded in the year 1509, by Richard Smith, Bishop of Lincoln, and Richard Sutton, of Presbury in Cheshire, Knight, for the maintenance of one Principal, and fifteen Fellows. To this number succeeding benefactions have added five Fellows, thirty-two scholars and four exhibitors.

tioners. The late Principal, Dr. Shippen, was likewise a memorable benefactor to this house, by procuring it several advowsons.

With regard to the very singular name of this College, it appears, that the Founders erected their house on the site of two ancient hostels, or halls; Little University Hall, mentioned above, and Brazen Nose Hall. The latter of these acquired its name from some students removed to it from a seminary, in the temporary University of Stamford, so denominated on account of an iron ring, fixed in a nose of brass, and serving as a knocker to the gate.

The present members of this house, are one principal, twenty Fellows, thirty-two Scholars, and four Exhibitioners: together with about forty or fifty Students besides. Visitor, The Bishop of London.

HERTFORD COLLEGE

Stands opposite to the grand gate of the schools. It consists of one irregular court, which has been lately beautified from a fund raised for that purpose by the late Principal. Part of this court consists of a small quantity of modern buildings, viz. the south-east angle, and the chapel erected about thirty years since; in the style of which the whole College is to be rebuilt.

This House was formerly called Hartford, or Hart Hall; founded by Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, in the year 1312, and belonged to Exeter College. Having received a Charter of Incorporation from Dr. Richard Newton, a late learned and public-spirited Principal, who has also consigned an estate towards its endowment, this ancient hostel was converted into a college, September 8, 1740. The foundation consists of a Principal, four senior

senior Fellows or Tutors, and junior Fellows or assistants, besides a certain number of Students or Scholars. There are at present about thirty members. Visitor. The Chancellor of the University.

NEW COLLEGE.

Dedicated to St. Mary Winton, is situated eastward of the schools, and is separated from Queen's College, by a narrow lane on the south.

The first court is about a hundred and sixty-eight feet in length, and a hundred and twenty-nine in breadth. In the centre is a statue of Minerva, given by Sir Henry Parker, of Honington in Warwickshire. The north side, which consists of the Chapel and Hall, is a noble specimen of Gothic magnificence. The two upper stories of the east side form the Library. On the west are the lodgings of the Warden, which are commodious and ample, adorned with many valuable portraits. The third story of this court was added to the founder's original building in the year 1674.

We enter the chapel at the north-west angle.

This chapel exceeds all in the University. The Anti-chapel, which is supported by four pillars of fine proportion, runs at right angles to the choir, and is eighty feet long and thirty-six broad. The choir, which we enter by a Gothic screen of beautiful construction, is one hundred feet long, thirty-five broad, and sixty-five high. From hence the painting over the altar, done about sixty years ago, by Mr. Henry Cook, is seen to the best advantage. It consists of a salutation piece, behind which the painter has artfully thrown the concave of a well-ornamented dome, in which the chapel appears to terminate. Nor is the deception contrived

contrived with less art in the two pannels on each side of the altar, which seem to discover some distant opening. The altar itself is approached by a noble flight of marble steps. It is enclosed by a well wrought rail of iron-work, the gift of Mr. Terry, formerly Fellow, and is covered with a rich pall of crimson velvet, given by Dr. Burton, the late head master of Winchester-school. From this situation, the organ, with the stall-work underneath, has a striking effect. Nor are the stalls, with their ornaments, on either side, unworthy of the rest, being remarkably elegant in the stile of the light Gothic. Over the Communion table is an original painting of Annibal Carracci; the subject, the Shepherds coming to Christ, after the Nativity; it is a justly admired piece, and worthy of notice. This valuable piece is said to have been once in the possession of M. Colbert, Minister to Lewis XIV. The windows on the south side are most beautifully painted by Mr. Price of London; each window representing eight figures of saints and martyrs, with their respective symbols and insignia, large as the life. It is intended by the society to finish all the remaining windows in the same superb style. The anti-chapel has lately received great ornament from a new western window, painted by Mr. Pecket of York.

Near the chapel is a noble Cloyster which constitutes a quadrangle, one hundred and forty-six feet in length on two sides, and one hundred and five the other two, with a garden in the area. Contiguous to it on the north, is a large and lofty tower, with ten bells.

The Hall, to which we pass at the north-east side of the quadrangle, is of excellent proportion, being seventy-eight feet in length, thirty-five in breadth, and forty-three in height. Its wainscot, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII.

is curious, and much in character. At the east end are portraits of the munificent founder, William of Wykeham; William of Wainfleet, founder of Magdalen College, who was School-master of Wykeham's College at Winchester; and Henry Chicheley, the founder of All Souls College, fellow of New College, while the founder was yet living.

The two rooms of which the Library before mentioned consists, are seventy feet long, and twenty-two broad. This library is furnished with a fine collection, and well known to the learned for its many valuable manuscripts.

In the chapel is shewn the crozier of the founder, one of the noblest curiosities, and almost the only one of its kind now remaining in this kingdom. It is nearly seven feet in height, is of silver gilt, embellished with variety of the richest Gothic workmanship, and charged with figures of angels, and the tutelary saints of the Cathedral Church of Winchester, executed with an elegance equal to that of a more modern age. It is finely preserved, and from a length of almost four hundred years, has lost but little of its original splendor and beauty.

From this quadrangle we pass into the Garden-court. This beautiful area, by means of a succession of retiring wings, displays itself gradually, as we approach the garden, from which it is separated by a sumptuous iron palisade, an hundred and thirty feet in length. This court has a noble effect from the mount in the garden; and the prospect is still further improved by the appearance of the old Gothic spires and battlements, which overlook the new building from the founder's court. It began to be erected in the year 1682, at the expense of the college, assisted by many liberal contributions.

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The garden in general is judiciously disposed. Great part of it, as likewise part of the college, is surrounded by the city wall; which from this circumstance of serving as a fence or boundary to the college precincts, is here, and here only, preserved entire, with its battlements and bastions, to a considerable extent.

On the south side is a pleasant bowling-green, shaded to the west by a row of elms, and on the east by tall sycamores, the branches of which being interwoven and incorporated with each other, from end to end, are justly admired as a natural curiosity.

This College was founded by William Wykeham, a native of Wykeham, a small town in Hampshire, whence he was probably called William of Wykeham. The foundation stone was laid on the fifth day of March, in the year 1379. The college was entirely finished in the year 1386; and on the 14th day of April in the same year, at the hour of nine in the morning, the society took possession of it, chanting in solemn procession.

The members of this college are one Warden, seventy Fellows, ten Chaplains, three Clerks, sixteen Choristers, and one Sexton; together with many Gentlemen Commoners. Visitor. The Bishop of Winchester.

WADHAM COLLEGE

Stands in the northern suburb, called Holywell, the front being opposite to Trinity-gardens. Under a stately central tower we enter the quadrangle, which is nearly a hundred and thirty feet square.

A portico, decorated with the statue of the founder, the foundress, James I. and other ornaments, leads us to the Hall. This is a spacious and lofty Gothic room, furnished with some valuable portraits.

From

From hence we pass into a cloister, which constitutes one side of a small area; the chapel being on the left, and the kitchen, with the library over it, on the right. The cloister, with its superstructure, in the midst of which is a handsome common room, forms a sort of east front, from whence we have a beautiful prospect over the meadows to the distant hills. This room has a most admirable portrait of an old woman.

The Chapel is spacious and venerable. The Antichapel, like those at Merton, New College, All-Souls, and Magdalen, runs at right angles to the choir, having a proportionable height, length and breadth. The east window is admirably painted by Van Ling, a Dutchman, in the year 1622. It was given by Sir John Strangeways, represents the Passion of our Lord, and is said to have cost one thousand five hundred pounds. The windows on the right side are perhaps by the same hand; but those on the left are poor, and of a later age.

The curious spectator will be extremely pleased with a most singular piece of painting which surrounds the altar. There is nothing of the kind now to be seen in Oxford; but the Altar-pieces of Magdalen and All-Souls, were formerly finished in the same manner. The painting is on cloth, which being of an ash-colour, serves for the medium: the lines and shades are done with a brown crayon, and the lights and heightening with a white one. These dry colours being pressed with hot irons, which produced an exsudation from the cloth, are so incorporated into its texture and substance, that they are proof against a brush, or even the harshest touch. The figures are finely drawn, and have a wonderful effect. It is the workmanship of Isaac Fuller, who painted the Resurrection-piece over the altar at Magdalen, and flourished near a hundred years since. The subject of the front is the Lord's Supper;

per ; on the north side, Abraham and Melchisedech ; and on the south, the Children of Israel gathering manna, are respectively represented.

This College was designed by Nicholas Wadham, Esq. of Merifield in Somersetshire, and executed in pursuance of his last will, by Dorothy his widow, in the year 1613, for the maintenance of one Warden, fifteen Fellows, fifteen Scholars, two Chaplains, and two Clerks. The statutes direct, that the Wardens shall quit the college in case of marriage ; that the Fellows shall enjoy the benefit of the society no longer than eighteen years after their regency in Arts ; that the scholars, from whom the Fellows are chosen, shall be appointed three from Somersetshire, three from Essex, and the remainder from any part of Great Britain.

The buildings of this house have not received the least alteration from the time of the foundress ; and as they now stand, are the entire result of the first architect. From this circumstance they derive an uniformity and regularity scarcely to be paralleled in any other college of this University. The critical observer must also take notice, that the style of architecture in this college, corresponds, in many particulars, with that of the public schools, and of the inner quadrangle at Merton College. These three edifices are all of the same age, and were most probably planned by the same artist. That indefatigable Antiquary, Mr. Herne, among his many curious researches, discovered, that the public schools were designed by Mr. Thomas Holt, of York.

This college consists of one Warden, fifteen Fellows, and fifteen Scholars ; two Chaplains, two Clerks, and sixteen Exhibitioners. The number of Students of every kind are about fifty. Visitor. The Bishop of Bath and Wells.

TRINITY COLLEGE,

Stands opposite the Turl; a spacious avenue, fenced from the street by an handsome iron palliade, with folding gates, adorned on the outside with the arms of the donor, the Earl of Guildford, and on the inside with those of the founder, leads us to the front of the college, which consists of the chapel, and the gateway, with its tower. Over the gate, in stone, are the arms of the founder, surrounded with a wreath of laurel, and supported by the Genii of Fame. In the first court are the chapel, hall, Library and lodgings of the president.

The Chapel has a peculiar elegance, which results from an assemblage of the most finished, and yet the most simple ornaments. The carvings about the screen, which is of cedar, are very masterly. The Altar-piece of the same wood, is, besides other embellishments, charged with exquisite festoons by Gibbons. Under an alcove, near the altar, is a fine Gothic tomb, on which are the effigies of the liberal founder and his lady, in alabaster. The cieling is covered with a bold and beautiful stucco.

In the midst of it is an ascension, which, on the whole is executed in a good taste, but perhaps has too much of the French manner. It was painted by Peter Berchett, a Frenchman.

The hall is spacious and well proportioned, in the Gothic style, and adorned with portraits of the founder and his lady; and of three presidents, Kettel, Bathurst and Sykes.

In the library is shewn a valuable manuscript of Euclid; being a translation from the Arabic into Latin, before the discovery of the original Greek, by Adelardus Bathoniensis, in 1130. It is extremely fair, and contains all the books. It was given by the founder, together with several other manuscripts;

scripts; who likewise furnished this library with many costly printed volumes chiefly in folio, at that time esteemed no mean collection.

In the library windows are many compartments of old painted glass, but much injured by the Presbyterians in the grand rebellion. The painted glass in the original chapel of this college, which is reported to have been remarkably beautiful, was entirely destroyed by the same spirit of sacrilegious and barbarous zeal, still farther exasperated at the following inscription, written in the great east window over the altar, "*Orate pro anima Domini Thomae Pope militis aurati Fundatoris bujus Collegii.*" i. e. "Pray for the Soul of Sir Thomas Pope, Knight, Founder of this College."

The second court is an elegant pile, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and said, by Wood, to be one of the first pieces of modern architecture that appeared in the University. It consists of three sides, the north and west of which are to be raised and finished in the manner of that on the south. The opening to the gardens on the east, has a singular and most agreeable effect.

The gardens are extensive, and laid out in two divisions. The first, or larger division, is chiefly thrown into open grass-plots. The north wall is covered with a beautiful yew-hedge. The centre walk is terminated by a well-wrought iron gate, with the founder's arms at the top, supported by two superb piers. The southern division is a pleasing solitude, consisting of shady walks, with a wilderness of flowering shrubs, disposed into serpentine paths, and much frequented.

This college was founded, March 8, A. D. 1554, by Sir Thomas Pope, Knight, of Tittenhanger in Hertfordshire, Treasurer of the *Court of Augmentations*, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, Privy-counsellor to Queen Mary, and a singular friend of Sir
Thomas

Thomas More, for the maintenance and education of one President, twelve Fellows, and twelve Scholars. The founder directs, that the Scholars, who succeed to the Fellowships, shall be chosen from his manors: but if no candidates appear under such qualifications on the day of election, viz. Trinity-Monday, that they shall be supplied from any county of England. He also appoints, that no more than two natives of the same county shall be Fellows of his College at the same time, Oxfordshire excepted, from which county five are permitted. Visitor. The Bishop of Winchester.

BALIOLE COLLEGE

Stands almost contiguous to that of Trinity. A handsome Gothic gateway leads us into the first court, part of which is finished in the style in which it is intended to rebuild the whole college.

On the north is the Chapel, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. It is adorned with some beautiful pieces of painted glass. The east window particularly demands our regard, which represents the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ; and for which Nicholas Wadham offered two hundred pounds, intending it for the east window of the chapel of his college.

The hall is handsomely wainscotted. In the master's lodgings is a spacious old apartment, whose beautiful bow window projects on the west side of the court, and which was formerly the college chapel. In the library, which was finished about the year 1477, are many curious manuscripts. Besides this court, there is an area to the north-west, consisting of irregular and detached lodgings.

A new

A new elegant building has lately been added at the south-west angle of this college; erected by the donation of the Reverend Mr. Fisher, late Fellow of this society. Its south front, which is one hundred and eight feet six inches in length consists of three stories, with nine windows in each; and having three breaks, those at each end have Venetian windows; on the middle break is formed a pediment, with a shield in the tympanum; and the whole surrounded with a block cornice. This building is thirty-eight feet six inches in depth; and under the centre window, in the back front, is the following inscription—**VERBUM NON AMPLIUS FISHER.**

Sir John Baliol, of Bernard Castle, in Yorkshire, father of John Baliol, King of Scotland, in the year 1268, began the foundation of this college. He appointed certain annual exhibitions for students, and intended to provide a house for their reception, but was prevented by death. However his widow, Devorguilla, not only completed, but improved, his design. She obtained a charter of incorporation, settled the benefaction of her husband on sixteen Fellows, and conveyed to them a messuage on the spot where the college stands at present for their perpetual habitation, in the year 1284. Their stipends were eight pence a week to each fellow, so that the whole original endowment amounted to no more than twenty-seven pounds nine shillings and four pence per year.

This college was endowed with lands, though not established by incorporation, a few years before that of Merton.

Nothing of Devorguilla's original messuage now remains. The present quadrangle began to be erected in the reign of Henry VI.

Here is one Master, twelve Fellows, and eighteen Exhibitioners. The whole number of the society
amounts

amounts to about fifty. Visitor. His Grace the Archbishop of York.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Stands in a retired situation, on the north of Baliol and Trinity Colleges. Before its front is a handsome terrace, shaded with a row of lofty elms. It chiefly consists of two courts. In the first are the Chapel and Hall, on the north, and the President's lodgings on the east. The chapel is decently furnished. The screen and altar are finished in the Corinthian order. Over the Communion Table is a beautiful piece of tapestry, representing our Lord breaking Bread with the two Disciples at Emmaus, from a famous original of Titian. The circumstance of the dog snarling at the cat, under the Table, is remarkable. The organ formerly stood on the north side; but a new one has lately been erected over the screen. The eagle, which supports the Bible, is a piece of curious workmanship, executed by Mr. Snetzler, of Oxford; and was the gift of Thomas Eskourt, Esq; late a Gentleman Commoner of this house. Choir Service is here performed twice every day, at eleven and five.

On the North Wall of this chapel, eastward of the organ, is a singular curiosity. A marble urn containing the heart of Dr. Rawlinson, enclosed in a silver vessel, which was placed here according to the directions in his last will.

The hall is fitted up in the modern taste, with great elegance. The screen is of Portland stone, in the Ionic order; and the wainscot in the same order, is remarkably beautiful. The roof and floor are correspondent to the rest. The chimney-piece is magnificent, of variegated marble, over which is a picture of St. John the Baptist, by Titian.

Titian. It is likewise adorned with several other excellent pieces: at the upper end is a whole length portrait of the founder; with Archbishop Laud on the right, and Archbishop Juxon on the left. On the north and south sides are those of Bishop Mew, Bishop Buckridge, Sir William Paddy, Knight, and of other eminent men, who have either illustrated this society by their learning, or enriched it by their beneficence.

The second court, which we enter through a passage on the east side of the first, is the design of Inigo Jones, and built 1635. The east and west sides exhibit, each, a beautiful Doric colonade; whose columns consist of a remarkable species of stone, said to be dug at Fifeild in Berks. In the centre of each colonade are formed two porticos, charged with a profusion of embellishments: over these, on each side, are two good statues in brass; that on the east, of Charles I. and that on the west, of his Queen. They were cast by Francis Fanelli, a Florentine. Their respective niches are ornamented with the Ionic and Corinthian orders: and the whole has an elegant and agreeable appearance. But perhaps it may be thought, that this building is not in the purest taste of its celebrated architect.

The upper stories of the south and east sides form the library. The first division consists of printed books; the second of manuscripts; chiefly given by Archbishop Laud. This, as it is furnished with cases of iron lattice-work, which are disposed in a parallel direction with the sides, forms an ample and airy gallery. In this room, the Archbishop abovementioned entertained Charles I. and his court, with a magnificent feast. Among the other curiosities, is a drawing of King Charles I. which contains the Book of Psalms written in the lines of the face and hair of the head. In an elegant
gilt

gilt frame, at the north end of the Inner Library, is a fine figure of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, beautifully stained upon what at first sight appears to be a piece of high polished marble; but is in reality a composition equally compact and durable.

The east window of this library is adorned with the coats of arms of the founder, the company of Merchant Taylors, and of several benefactors to the college, in curious and well painted glass.

The gardens are extensive: and on the whole are a most agreeable retreat. The inner grove, as it is commonly called, has all those graces which arise from a regulated variety, and from a succession of beauties so disposed, as to strike us gradually and unexpectedly.

This college was founded by Sir Thomas White, Alderman and Merchant Taylor of London, A. D. 1557, for the maintenance of one President, fifty Fellows, three Chaplains, three Clerks, and six Choristers, &c. Two of the fellowships are ordered to be supplied from Coventry, two from Bristol, two from Reading, and one from Tunbridge: the rest from Merchant Taylors School in London. The benefactors have been very numerous, and no less considerable. Sir William Paddy, Knight, founded and endowed the present choir; that originally established by the founder, having been dissolved by unanimous consent of the society, A. D. 1577, the revenues of the college being found insufficient for its maintenance. Archbishop Laud erected the second court, its south side excepted, which was built, A. D. 1595, with the stones of the Carmelite Friery in Gloucester-green; the Company of Merchant Taylors in London, amongst several other benefactions, contributing two hundred pounds. Archbishop Juxon gave seven thousand pounds to augment the Fellowships;

Dr. Holmes,

Dr. Holmes, formerly President, with his Lady, gave fifteen thousand pounds for improving the salaries of the officers, and other purposes. And Dr. Rawlinson above-mentioned, granted the reversion of a large estate in fee farm rents. The College has likewise largely experienced the beneficence of many others, who have liberally contributed towards the improvement of its building and revenues.

It should be remembered, that this College was founded on the site of Bernard's College, erected A. D. 1437, by Archbishop Chichely, the liberal founder of All Souls College. The present old quadrangle, part of the east side excepted, is the original edifice of Chichely; no building being added, at the new foundation, by Sir Thomas White. Visitor. The Bishop of Winchester.

WORCESTER COLLEGE

Is situated at the extremity of the western suburb, on an eminence which descends to the river and meadows. Its court or area, consists of three sides, which are all to be completed in the modern taste. At present the eastern side only, together with half the north wing, is finished. On the west it is proposed to form a garden, sloping to the water; so that a most agreeable prospect will be opened to the College. The Library is a neat Ionic edifice, one hundred feet in length, supported by a spacious cloister. It is furnished with a fine collection of books, the gift of Dr. Clarke, formerly Fellow of All Souls College. Its greatest curiosity is Inigo Jones's Palladio, with his own manuscript notes in Italian.

At our entrance into the College, we have on each side the Chapel and Hall, both of which are fifty feet in length, and twenty-nine in breadth.

On the whole, this house, when executed according to the plan, will be a well-disposed, elegant structure.

This college was founded, A. D. 1714, by the benefaction of Sir Thomas Cookes, of Bentley in Worcestershire, for one Provost, six Fellows, and six Scholars.

This house was originally called Gloucester College, being a seminary for educating the novices of Gloucester Monastery, as it was likewise for those of other religious houses. It was founded A. D. 1283, by John Giffard, Baron of Brimfield. When suppressed, at the Reformation, it was converted into a palace for the Bishop of Oxford; but was soon afterwards into an Academical Hall, by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College; in which state it continued, till it at length received a charter of incorporation, and a small endowment from Sir Thomas Cookes.

Here are one Provost, twenty Fellows, seventeen Scholars, &c. The whole number about forty. Visitor. The Chancellor of the University.

EXETER COLLEGE

Is situated on the left side within the Turl from the north. In the centre of the front, which is two hundred and twenty feet in length, is a beautiful gate of rustic work: over it is a tower, adorned with Ionic pilasters, supporting a semi-circular pediment, in the area of which are the arms of the founder on a shield surrounded with festoons. A light ballustrade finishes the whole. This front deserves a better approach than its confined situation will allow. The workmanship in the roof of the gateway is equal to the rest.

This College consists chiefly of one handsome modern quadrangle; one side of which is the same as the front just described. On the south is the Hall,

Hall, which is long and lofty, and adorned with portraits. It was entirely built from the ground by Sir John Ackland, Knt. of Devonshire, A. D. 1618. On the north is the Chapel, consisting of two aisles, one of which only is furnished for divine service. It was erected by Dr. Hakewell, formerly Rector, A. D. 1624.

In the Library, which was formerly the chapel, situated in the inner court, is a fine collection of the Classics, given by Thomas Richards, Esq.

The old entrance into the College was through the tower, which appears on the north east angle of the court, and for which a postern in the city-wall was opened. Near or about this tower, the old College, as it may in some measure be called, seems to have stood; part of which still remains adjoining to the tower on either side, that on the east being the most antient, erected, A. D. 1404, and that on the west, viz. the Rector's lodgings, together with the tower itself, A. D. 1432. However, all these are still more modern than any part of the founder's original structure; no remainder of which is to be seen at present, except a part of the chapel, since converted into the library.

The gardens are neat, with an agreeable terrace, from whence a prospect is opened to some of the finest buildings in the University.

This college was founded by Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of England, and Secretary of State to Edward II. for thirteen Fellows, A. D. 1316. It was first called Stapledon Hall, but obtained its present name from Edmond Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, A. D. 1404, who gave two Fellowships.

The College consists, at present, of one Rector, twenty-five Fellows, and a Bible Clerk, with two Exhibitioners. The students of every sort, are about fifty. Visitor. The Bishop of Exeter.

JESUS

JESUS COLLEGE.

The front of this College, which has been lately much improved, is opposite to Exeter College, just described.

In the first court is the Hall, in which is a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, with a cieling of well-executed stucco, by Mr. Roberts; the Principal's lodgings, in which is shewn a valuable picture of Charles I. at full length, by Vandyke; and the Chapel, which is handsomely furnished, and well-proportioned. Of these, the first was erected A. D. 1617; the second soon after the year 1621; and the last was completed 1636.

Three sides of the inner court, begun by Dr. Mansel, one of the Principals, a little before the grand rebellion, are finished in a decent and uniform manner. The library is on the west side, which is a well furnished room, and adorned, among other portraits, with a curious picture of Dr. Hugh Price, probably painted by Hans Holbein. It has been engraved as such by Vertue.

This College was founded, according to the purport of its charter, dated June 27th, 1571, by Queen Elizabeth, for one Principal, eight Fellows, and eight Scholars.

In the Bursary is shewn a sumptuous piece of plate, the gift of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne; also the statutes of the college, exquisitely written on vellum, by the Rev. Mr. Parry, of Shipston upon Stowre, formerly fellow.

This College consists of one Principal, nineteen Fellows, eighteen Scholars, with many Exhibitioners, and independent Students. The whole number about ninety. Visitor. The Earl of Pem, broke.

LINCOLN COLLEGE

Is situated between All Saints Church and Exeter College, and consists of two quadrangles. The first, which we enter under a plain but decent tower, is formed, exclusive of chambers, by the lodgings of the rector, standing in the south-east angle, and erected by Thomas Beckington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, A. D. 1465; the Library and Common Room on the north, and Refectory on the east.

The library, under which is the common room, is small, but neatly decorated, and contains many curious manuscripts, chiefly given by Thomas Gai-coigne, A. D. 1432. It was finished, as it appears at present, by the liberality of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, first a Commoner of this, and afterwards Fellow of All Souls College, A. D. 1738. This room was originally the chapel, and was converted into a library at the expence of Nathaniel Lord Crew, when Fellow, A. D. 1656.

The hall was erected by John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, A. D. 1631. It was handsomely wain-scotted by Bishop Crew, A. D. 1701, whose arms appear over the middle of the screen; and those of the rest of the contributors are interspersed about the mouldings. It is forty feet in length, twenty-five in breadth, and proportionable in height.

From this court, which forms a square of eighty feet, we enter through the south side, the second, which is about seventy feet square. On the south-side of this quadrangle is the chapel, which particularly deserves our attention. It was built by Bishop Williams abovementioned, A. D. 1631. The screen is of cedar elegantly carved. The windows are of painted glass, complete, and well preserved; done A. D. 1632. Those on the north represent twelve of the Prophets, and those on the south

south the twelve Apostles, large as life. The east window exhibits a view of the types relative to our Saviour, with their respective completions, viz. 1. From the left hand, the Nativity; and under it, the History of the Creation its antitype. 2. Our Lord's Baptism; and under it, the Passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea. 3. The Jewish Passover; and under it the Institution of the Lord's Supper. 4. The Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness; corresponding to—Christ on the Cross. 5. Jonas delivered from the Whale's belly, expressive of—Christ's Resurrection. 6. Elijah in the fiery chariot, with—Our Lord's Ascension.

The roof consists of compartments in cedar, embellished with the arms of the different founders and benefactors, and interchangeably enriched with cherubims, palm-branches, and festoons, diversified with painting and gilding. There is an admirable proportion, and elegance of execution, in the eight figures of cedar, which are respectively placed at each end of the desks, and represent Moses, Aaron, the four Evangelists, St. Peter and St. Paul.

This College was founded A. D. 1429, by Richard Flemming, a native of Royston in Yorkshire, and Bishop of Lincoln, for the maintenance of one Rector, seven Fellows, and two Chaplains; and intended as a seminary for the education of scholars, who should oppose the doctrine of Wickliffe. But the founder dying before he had fully established his little society, the college, left in an indigent condition, with some difficulty subsisted for a few years on the slender endowment which he had consigned to it, and the addition of some small benefactions afterwards made by others. At length Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln, more effectually supplied its necessities, by improving both the buildings and revenues; adding moreover five Fellowships, and assigning a new body of statutes, dated

1479, by which and other services, he so raised Flemming's orphan foundation, as justly to deserve the name of a Co-founder.

The society consists at present of a Rector, twelve Fellows, twelve Exhibitioners, and seven Scholars, with a Bible Clerk; besides independant members. Visitor. The Bishop of Lincoln.

ORIEL COLLEGE

Is situated southward of St. Mary's Church, on the north side of the front of Corpus Christi College; its great gate being almost opposite to the back gate of Christ-church. Its quadrangle, which was erected in the year 1640, is uniform and decent: the north side consists of the Provost's lodgings, and the library; the east of the hall, buttery, and vestibule of the chapel, which runs eastward from thence; and the south and west sides form the common apartments.

We ascend the hall by an ample flight of steps, covered with a proportionable portico. It is handsomely wainscotted in the Doric style, and decorated at the upper end with a portrait of Edward II. dressed in his regalia, by Hudson; one of Queen Anne, who annexed a Prebend of Rochester to the Provostship, by Dahl; and another of the late Duke of Beaufort, who is represented erect, in his parliament robes, attended by a Negro-boy bearing a coronet, by Soldi.

The chapel has that beauty belonging to it which is derived from a decent simplicity, and was finished in the year 1642. The window over the altar has been lately painted with the Wise mens offering by Mr. Peckett, of York.

The Library is a neat well furnished room, being half the upper story of the north side of this quadrangle.

The

The Garden-court, which we enter by a passage in the same north side, receives an agreeable air from an elegant little garden which is formed in the midst of it, and fenced on this side with iron gates and palisades, supported by a dwarf-wall and stone piers. The sides are two wings, in a style correspondent to that of the quadrangle. That on the right was erected by Dr. Robinson, Bishop of London; and that on the left, by Dr. Carter, formerly Provost.

This college was founded by Adam Le Brome, Almoner to Edward II. in the year 1327; for one Provost and ten Fellows.

The present members are, one Provost, eighteen Fellows, and about fourteen Exhibitioners. The Students of all sorts amount to about eighty. Visitor. The Lord Chancellor.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

Is situated near the back gate of Christ-church, on the south side of Oriel College. Through a beautiful Gothic gateway we enter the first court, in which there is a peculiar appearance of neatness. On the east stands the hall, which is handsomely wainscotted, and well proportioned. The rafters in the cieling are well wrought in the Gothic style. In the midst of this court is a curious column, exhibiting a cylindrical dial; the construction of which is esteemed a valuable piece of old Gnomonics. It was made by Robert Hegge, a Fellow, about the latter end of Elizabeth. From hence we pass into the Cloysters, which are in the modern taste. South of these is an elegant pile of building of the Ionic order, which fronts Christ-church meadow, and was erected by Dr. Turner, formerly President, in the year 1706. There is likewise another neat structure, of the modern kind, near the hall,

hall, appropriated to gentlemen commoners, who must not exceed six in number.

The chapel is seventy feet in length and twenty-five in breadth, with a screen and altar-piece of cedar.

The Library, which is well furnished in general, is remarkable for a collection of pamphlets from the Reformation to the Revolution; an English Bible, supposed to be of higher antiquity than that of Wickliffe; and a vellum roll, which exhibits the pedigree of the royal family, with the collateral branches, from Alfred to Edward I. richly decorated with their arms blazoned, and signed by the King's at Arms. The most striking curiosity is an ancient manuscript History of the Bible in French, illuminated with a series of beautiful paintings, illustrating the sacred story. It was given by General Oglethorpe, formerly a member of this house. Here is shewn also the crosser of the founder, which, although a fine specimen of antique workmanship, is by no means equal to that of Wykeham at New College.

This college was founded in the year 1526, and endowed with lands of near four hundred pounds per annum, by Richard Fox, who was successively Bishop of Exeter, Bath and Wells, Durham, and Winchester; and Lord Privy Seal to King Henry VII. and VIII.

The present members are, one President, twenty Fellows, two Chaplains, twenty Scholars, two Clerks, two Choristers, and six Gentlemen Commoners. Visitor. The Bishop of Winchester.

MERTON COLLEGE

Is separated from that of Corpus Christi, towards the west, by a small grove of elms. In the first court, the most striking object is the east window of

the chapel, the construction of which is a fine piece of Gothic workmanship. From this court, by a flight of steps, we enter the Hall; it is large and lofty, but has nothing particularly remarkable, except the wainscot over the high table, which appears, by a date engraved upon it, in figures of an antique form, to have been erected in the year 1554.

The Chapel, which is also the parish church of St. John, is an august Gothic edifice, with a tower, in which are eight bells. Its choir, or inner chapel, is the longest of any in the University, that of New College excepted: It had once an organ, yet without any regular institution for choir service, before the present stalls and wainscot were put up. There is something elegant in the painted glass of the east window, which is of a modern hand. The Anti-chapel is proportionably spacious, and was originally much larger; for if we examine the outside of the church, towards the west, we may perceive the arches filled up, which once stood within, and made part of the nave. Near the altar are the monuments of Sir Thomas Bodely, and Sir Henry Saville. On the right hand of the choir door, is that of the late Warden, Dr. Wintle, and his sister, which is prettily executed; and not far from the north door of the Anti-chapel, is an inscription to the memory of Anthony Wood. This church, as we are informed by a manuscript of Wood, was built about the year 1424, but it does not appear by what benefactor.

South of the church or chapel is a small old quadrangle; the south side of it forms the library, built in the year 1369, which still contains many curious manuscripts; notwithstanding, as we are told by Wood, a cart load of manuscripts was taken from it, which were dispersed or destroyed by the Visitors in the reign of Edward VI.

The

The new or second quadrangle was erected in the year 1610, from which apartments on the south, there is a beautiful prospect over the meadows. The terrace, formed on the city wall, in the garden of this college, is no less finely situated for a delightful view; and the gardens in general have a pleasing variety.

This college was founded by Walter de Merton, Lord Chancellor of England, and afterwards Bishop of Rochester, for the maintenance of twenty Scholars, and three Chaplains, about the year 1274.

The society consists at present of a Warden; twenty-four Fellows; fourteen Postmasters; four Scholars; two Chaplains, and two Clerks: the number of members of every sort is near eighty. Visitor. The Archbishop of Canterbury.

CHRIST CHURCH.

The stately front of the College of Christ Church is extended to the length of three hundred and eighty-two feet, and terminated at either end by two corresponding turrets. In the centre is the grand entrance, whose Gothic proportions and ornaments are remarkably magnificent. Over it is a beautiful tower, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and erected by Bishop Fell: it contains the great bell called *Tom*, on the sound of which, every night at nine, the Students of the whole University are enjoined, by statute, to repair to their respective societies. The judicious spectator cannot but observe with regret, that this front, perhaps the noblest in the kingdom, of the Gothic style, loses much of its effect, on account of the declivity of the ground on which it stands, and the narrowness of the approach. It seems however probable, that a terrace walk was intended, by way of raising the ground to a level, the whole length of the college: for
the

the rough foundation stones of the hospital on the opposite side, left unfinished by Wolsey, still remain bare, and the smooth stones are terminated by an horizontal right line; to which height the ground would have been elevated.

The grand quadrangle is two hundred and sixty-four by two hundred and sixty-one feet in the clear; the east, north and west sides, with part of the south, consist of the lodgings of the Dean, the Canons, and the Students, &c. the greatest part of the south side is formed by the hall, which is considerably elevated above the rest of the buildings, and taken as a detached structure, is a noble specimen of ancient magnifice——The south, east and part of the west side, were erected by Cardinal Wolsey; as was the kitchen to the south of the hall, which is every way proportionable to the rest of the college. The whole is strongly expressive of the greatness of the Cardinal's conception, who yet intended much more than is executed.

The north, and what remained of the west side of this court, was finished in the year 1665. By the marks on the wall, some suppose this area was surrounded by a cloister, as some of the pilasters had been begun, which probably the new founder removed, and smoothed to the wall. For uniformity sake, they took care to make the same marks in the new part erected in 1665, as I have just observed.

Round the whole area is a spacious terrace walk, made in the same year, and in the centre a bason and fountain, with the statue of Mercury. On the inside, over the grand entrance, is a statue of Queen Anne; over the arch in the north-east angle, another of Bishop Fell; and opposite to that at the south-east, a statue of Cardinal Wolsey, which is justly admired. It was done by Francis Bird, of Oxford.

Under

Under this statue of the Cardinal we enter the Hall, by a spacious and stately stair-case of stone, covered by a beautiful roof, built in the year 1630, which, though very broad, is supported by a small single pillar of fine proportion. This hall is probably the largest, and certainly the most superb of any in the kingdom. It has eight windows on each side; is one hundred and eighty feet in length, and its cieling eighty feet high.

The roof is a noble frame of rafter-work, beautified with near three hundred coats of arms; properly blazoned, and enriched with other decorations of painting, carving, and gilding, in the Gothic taste.

The delicacy of the Gothic fret-work, in the roof over the window on the left side of the high table, particularly demands our observation.

This room has been refitted at a large expence, and is adorned with a number of portraits of eminent persons, educated at, or related to, the college. There is likewise a marble bust of George I.

The Church of this College, which is the cathedral church of the Bishop of Oxford, is situated to the east of the grand quadrangle. It is an ancient venerable structure, and was originally the church of St. Frideswide's monastery; on, or near the site of which, the college is erected. It was finished before the year 1200. The roof of the choir is a beautiful piece of stone-work, put up by Cardinal Woolsey; who likewise rebuilt, or refitted, the spire as it now stands. The original one was much loftier. The east window is elegantly painted by Mr. Price, senior, from a design of Sir James Thornhill, representing the Epiphany. The aisle on the north of the choir was the dormitory of St. Frideswide's; in which an ancient monument is shewn, said to be the tomb of that Saint. She died in the year 739. At the west end of the same aisle is a window painted

painted in a masterly manner, by John Oliver, in the eightieth year of his age, and given by him to the college in the year 1700. The subject is St. Peter delivered out of prison by the Angel. There is great expression in the attitudes of the sleeping soldiers. Many remains of painted glass appear in different parts of the church, remarkable for strength and brilliancy of colour; the windows having been for the most part destroyed, in the year 1651. But some of these fragments have been lately collected, and with great taste disposed into complete windows, or compartments. The tower contains ten musical bells, brought hither from Oseney Abbey; as was the great bell, called *Tom*, above mentioned. The neighbouring Chapter-house is worthy the inspection of the curious. In this cathedral, choir service is performed at ten and four every day. This church was designed by the Cardinal for private masses and theological exercises only. The foundation stones of the church or chapel intended for the public service, may still be traced in the gardens on the north side of the great quadrangle, which as Wood tells us, would have been an *august* and *immense* work.

Peckwater-court, to the north-east of the great quadrangle, is perhaps the most elegant edifice in the University. It consists of three sides, each of which has fifteen windows in front. The middle story is Ionic. Its architect was Dean Aldrich; it's principal founder Dr. Radcliffe, a canon of this church, assisted by other contributions. Opposite to it is a sumptuous Library, one hundred and forty-one feet in length, supported by pillars of the Corinthian order. It was first intended to have placed this structure on piazzas, which would have given it a lighter air. In the place of which, apartments are formed for the reception of General Guise's valuable collection of paintings, lately bequeathed

queathed to the college, and for the residue of the books which could not be placed in the upper rooms. The south side of this library is furnished with elegant book-cases extended to the whole length of the room, with a gallery above; and between the windows on the opposite side is likewise placed a series of book-cases, respectively assigned to the several sciences; over each of which there are beautiful festoons in stucco, charged with symbolical imagery, severally representing the particular branch of literature contained beneath. The ceiling is also ornamented with masterly compartments of stucco. The wainscoting, &c. which is of the finest Norway oak, together with the banisters of the gallery, are all highly finished with carving. Upon a pedestal, in a recess on the north side, is placed an admirable whole length statue of Locke, formerly a student of this house, by Roubillac. Towards the south of the library are several apartments furnished also with book-cases, and cabinets for manuscripts.

East of this court stands Canterbury Court, originally Canterbury Collège. It was a distinct college, founded 1363, by Philip Archbishop of Canterbury; but afterwards dissolved, and taken into this foundation.

There is besides, the Chaplain's Court, to the south-east of Wolsey's quadrangle; on the north side of which is a light Gothic edifice, formerly belonging to St. Frideswide's monastery, and named St. Lucia's Chapel. It was lately used for a library. Nor should we omit an elegant range of building on the south, commonly called Fell's, which fronts a noble walk belonging to the college, called the White Walk, upwards of two furlongs in length, and fifty feet wide, shaded on each side with lofty elms, and commanding a delightful prospect of

the

the adjacent meadows, the river, and the neighbouring villages.

This college was originally founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in the year 1525, and when that prelate fell into disgrace, it was seized by King Henry VIII. who suspended it till the year 1532, and then re-established it under the name of Henry the VIIIth's college.

This college, or church, consists of one Dean, eight Canons, eight Chaplains, eight Singing Men, one Organist, eight Choristers, one hundred and one Students, besides many independant members. The whole number about one hundred and eighty. Visitor: The King.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE.

To this college we pass in a direct line from the grand gate of Christ Church. At our entrance the Master's lodgings, on the right, make a handsome appearance, which are large and convenient. The first quadrangle is neat and uniform, though small. From this we are led, by the north-west angle, into the Hall, which is adorned with pictures of the founders and benefactors; from thence into another regular area, on one side of which stands the chapel. This is a modern edifice of the Ionic order. The altar is justly admired for its neatness, and the whole is elegantly finished, and properly adorned.

It was built by contribution, and consecrated 1732. Their former chapel was an aisle, in the adjoining church of St. Aldate.

Westward of the chapel is the Garden, in which is a pleasant common-room, and an agreeable terrace walk, formed on the city wall.

This college was founded in the year 1620, by the joint benefaction of Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton in Oxfordshire, and Richard Wightwick, S.T.B.

Rector

Rector of Ilfley, Berks, for one Master, ten Fellows, and ten Scholars.

Dr. Hall, Master, and Bishop of Bristol, built the lodgings of the Master, together with the gateway of the college, soon after the restoration.

This college was originally Broadgate Hall, famous for the study of the civil law, a flourishing house of learning, in which, to mention no more, Camden received part of his education. It obtained the name of Pembroke College, from the memorable Earl of Pembroke, who was Chancellor of the University when the College was founded, and whose interest was particularly instrumental in its establishment.

The society at present consists of one master, fourteen Fellows, and upwards of thirty Scholars and Exhibitioners. Visitor. The Chancellor of the University.

Besides these colleges we have described, there are also a number of Halls, Hostels, or Inns, which were the only academical houses originally possessed by the Students of Oxford, only five subsist at present.

I. ALBAN HALL

Contiguous to Merton College on the east. It took its name from Robert de St. Alban, a citizen of Oxford; who, in the reign of Henry the third, conveyed this tenement to the nuns of Littlemore. The front is decent, erected by Benedict Barnham, Alderman of London, in the year 1595. It has a small refectory, and no chapel.

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II. St.

II. St. EDMUND'S HALL,

Situated to the east of Queen's-college, was first established about the reign of Edward III. and was consigned to Queen's-college, in the year 1557. It has a library, refectory and chapel, which are neat and commodious.

III. St. MARY HALL

Is situated in Oriel-lane, to the south of St. Mary's-church. It consists of an elegant little court, which encloses a neat garden. It has a library, with a handsome, though small chapel, and refectory. Erasmus, Sir Thomas More, and Sandys the poet, studied in this house. It has some Exhibitioners.

IV. NEW INN HALL

Stands near the Church of St. Peter in the Bailey, towards the castle. It was consigned to Students by John Trillock, Bishop of Hereford, in the year 1545. It was founded in the year 1437, for novices of the Augustin order, and suppressed at the reformation.

V. MAGDALEN HALL.

This hall is almost contiguous to Magdalen college on the west. A very considerable part of it is the grammar-school for the choristers of Magdalen-college, erected with the college, by the founder, William of Wainfleet, for that purpose alone. To this structure other buildings being added, it grew by degrees into an academical hall. It has a well furnished library, with a neat chapel, and refectory. Here are several exhibitions. This seminary

minary boasts the education of Lord Clarendon, the celebrated historian.

On the west side of the town, a small distance from the river Isis, stands

Oxford Castle. It was built in the year 1071, by *Robert de Olleis*, or *D'Oilley*, a Norman, who came over with William the Conqueror, and who, for his good services, was rewarded by that Prince, with considerable grants of land in this county. Here was a parish church dedicated to St. George. The register of Osney calls it a Church of Canons Secular, of the order of St. Augustine; and says, it was jointly founded by Robert D'Oilley and Robert De Iveri, in the year 1074. This church was, in 1149, annexed to a house of regular canons, founded at Osney, by Robert D'Oilley, nephew of the before named Robert. The buildings were afterwards occupied by Scholars. It is said, an ancient manuscript, mentioned a monastery here, before the year 1122, dedicated to St. Aldatus.

In the reign of King Stephen, A.D. 1141, this castle was delivered up to the Empress Matilda, who kept the Easter festival in the city with great solemnity. The next year Stephen having taken the town by a fortunate act of temerity, laid siege to the castle, wherein the Empress resided, which, with the tower that covered one side of it, were, according to a cotemporary historian, accounted impregnable. In order, therefore, to make himself master of it, either by force or famine, the King, entrenching himself, blocked up every avenue by which the besieged might receive either succour or provisions, and at the same time battered it furiously with all the machines then in use. The Barons, who did not dare attack him in his works, in vain attempted to provoke him to a battle, so that although they had pledged their faith to the Duke of Gloucester to guard his sister, the Empress, from

from all danger during his absence in France, whither he was gone to raise supplies, they were constrained to leave her to her fate. Matilda, after having by her exhortations and example, animated the garrison to make a much more vigorous defence than could have been expected, at length reduced to the utmost extremity for want of every necessary, and despairing of relief, went privately out of the castle by night, without the knowledge of the garrison, accompanied only by three trusty attendants, and being conducted by a soldier of Stephen's army, whom she had gained by presents, crossed over the Thames, which was then frozen so hard as to bear, and passing through the midst of her enemy's army which guarded the opposite side of the river, after great hazard and fatigue reached Abingdon, having walked six miles through a deep snow. It is said she and her attendants were cloathed in white to render themselves less distinguishable in the snow. The garrison, as soon as they were acquainted with her flight, surrendered upon terms. During this siege was built the chapel of St. Thomas, because the inhabitants could not then have the use of the parish church of St. George. These particulars of the Empress's escape, are not adopted by all our historians, though they generally agree it was effected by the means of some of Stephen's party.

In the year 1191, this castle was delivered into the custody of Richard Revel, by King Richard the first, and in the 16th of Henry the third, (according to *Madox's History of the Exchequer*) that King granted for himself and his heirs unto Godfrey de Craucumbe, the custody of the county and castle of Oxford, with the meadow and mill belonging to the castle, and with all other things appertaining to the shrievalty, for his life, he paying the

the same form as had been usually paid in the time of King John, with the addition of twenty marks every year, as *proficuum*, or the value of accidental emoluments. From the same authority it appears, that in the 15th of Henry II. by writ of Privy Seal directed to the Sheriff, the castle of Oxford was ordered to be victualled and provided with ammunition.

In a map, or rather bird's-flight view of this town and University, drawn by Ralph Agar, in the year 1578, and published 1728, the castle is represented as an irregular octagon, situated on an eminence, and surrounded by an embattled wall, having on its angles five square towers; and on its west side one of a multangular figure, called the Castle Prison; south of which is a building with a tower seemingly a church. The entrance is by a wooden bridge, over a wet ditch, which almost encompasses the castle; and through a tower on the north-east angle, on a mount near the north wall, stands the gallows.

Little of the castle is now remaining, except the tower, which serves for the county prison. Near it is a small chapel, built by contribution, for the use of the prisoners. On the mount seen to the right, is a large vaulted magazine, now used for a store-cellar. The wall on the left is part of the ancient structure and is ten feet thick. Beneath the mount in the castle-yard, are the remains of the ancient sessions-house, wherein was held, in the year 1577, what is stiled the Black Sessions, on account of an infectious distemper brought by the prisoners, whereby the Lieutenant of the County, two Knights, eighty Squires and Justices of the Peace, besides almost all the gentlemen of the Grand Jury died. Above an hundred scholars, besides townsmen, were attacked by the disorder, which was attended with a kind of a phrenzy, so
that

that those affected with it ran wildly about the streets, assaulting every one they met, their governors not excepted.

We must not omit to mention the Physic Garden, which is worthy the notice of those who visit Oxford, being well stocked with a number of various plants, and exotics, some of which were brought over by Dr. Banks. This garden was instituted by the Earl of Denbey, in the year 1632, of whom there is a bust over the grand entrance. The garden is much improved by Dr. Sherrard, who assigned three thousand pounds for the maintenance of a Professor of Botany.

Besides these public buildings, there are three principal bridges, viz. 1. Magdalen Bridge over the Cherwell, which is now rebuilding, and when finished, will be the chief entrance into the town from London. 2. High bridge in the western suburb, over the Isis, consisting of three arches, and leading into Gloucestershire, &c. 3. Folly bridge, as it is commonly called, in the southern suburb of the same river, over which, through a gate and tower, known by the name of Friar Bacon's Study, is the Abingdon road, which leads to various parts of Berkshire, &c. this consists of three arches, and is like the rest, entirely built with stone.

The city was originally enclosed with walls, and from that part of them which remains as a boundary to New College on the north and east, appear to have been embattled with bastions at one hundred and fifty feet distance from each other.

At Carfax, a part of the town so called, is a conduit, erected by Otho. Nicholson, and in one of the principal streets, called the High-street, is a very neathandsome market-place lately erected: few country towns can boast a better. The town-hall, where the assizes for the county and the town, and
county

county sessions are held, is a neat commodious edifice, partly erected at the expence of Thomas Rowney, Esq. the late representative and high steward of the city.

This gentleman likewise gave the ground on which the Radcliffe Infirmary is built. It is of hewn stone, and erected upon the plan of the county hospital at Gloucester, it stands at the entrance of the town, from the Woodstock and Banbury roads. This is a very handsome edifice, erected by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's benefaction, out of the surplus money remaining, after defraying the expence of his library. It was begun in May, 1759, was opened upon St. Luke's day, October the 18th, 1770, and is supported by benefactors, and a very liberal annual subscription.

Many useful and elegant improvements have taken place here in pursuance of an Act of Parliament, obtained in the eleventh year of his present Majesty George III. The narrow and incommodious passage at East gate has been opened, which affords a prospect of Magdalen College, and renders this equal to the magnificence of the High-street; and the elevation of a sumptuous stone bridge is already adopted, from a design of that most ingenious artist Mr. John Gwynn. At Carfax, in the very centre of the city, many buildings have been removed, in order to continue the principal street, which opens a fine avenue to the new Bottley road, now completely finished, on a superb plan; as it contains no less than seven bridges, built with hewn stone, in the compass of one mile. North gate, usually called Bocardo, the only city gate lately remaining, has also been demolished; and the removal of this nuisance perhaps produces the most striking effect of any of these modern improvements: the Corn-market and St. Giles's being now connected, and thrown into one long and noble street.

street. The old shambles, in the Butcher-row, by the act already recited, are likewise ordered to be taken away, and a new general market, upon an extensive scale, to be erected between the High-street and Jesus College-lane.

There is a stone before Baliol College, which marks the place of martyrdom of Archbishop Cranmer and Bishop Ridley.

On the other side of the river formerly stood Osney Abbey, founded by Robert Doyly, at the persuasion of his wife Editha, who often walking with her maid near a certain tree in the meadows, was always disturbed by the clamour of a number of pyes and other birds, and consulting one Radulphus, her confessor, what this might signify, he cunningly advised her to build some church or monastery where the trees stood, which she did, and made him the first prior.

The White Friars was a royal palace; and near a green called Beaumond's, was anciently a tower, which gave birth to that valiant Prince, Richard the First.

Passing over a bridge on the Isis, are some small remains of the ruins of Raleigh Abbey, which has been converted to a common brewhouse.

At Godstow, at a small distance from Oxford, are the remains of a nunnery, situated among delightful meadows; here formerly was a remarkable tomb of fair Rosamond, which is said to have been of wood, and of most curious workmanship. The story of this unfortunate lady is so well known, that we shall not take up our reader's time with dwelling upon it; all that we shall say about it, is, that the popular story of her death is esteemed by many historians as a fiction, and several assert she died a natural death, soon after she was enclosed in the bower.

The

The story of the poison is thought to have taken its rise from the figure of a cup, engraved as an ornament on her tomb. Her parents, who survived her, caused her to be buried in the church of Godstowe, opposite to the high altar; and Henry lavished great sums in adorning and lighting her tomb. Here she remained till the year 1191, when according to *Hoveden*, Hugh Bishop of Lincoln, visiting the nunnery of Godstowe, went into the church to pray, where observing a tomb covered with silk, and lighted by a profusion of wax tapers, he enquired to whom it belonged, and being told to Rosamond, mistress to King Henry, who, for her sake, had been a great benefactor to the church, the bishop, in a fit of zeal, exclaimed, "Take this harlot from hence, and bury her without the church, lest through her the Christian religion should be scandalized, and that other women, warned by her example, may refrain from unlawful and adulterous love." It was accordingly done, and her body was deposited, as tradition says, in the Chapter-house. But it was the destiny of this unfortunate lady to find no rest for her corpse; for after the reformation her coffin was found and opened, of which *Leland* gives the following account: "Rosamunde's tumbe, at Godstowe nunnery, was taken up of late: it is a large stone, with this inscription, *Tumba Rosamunde*, her bones were closed in lede, and wythin that bones were closed yn letter. When it was opened, there was a sweete smell came out of it." Notwithstanding the opinion of the Bishop of Lincoln, Rosamond was considered after her death, as little less than a Saint, as appears by the following inscription, on a cross, which *Leland* says, stood near Godstowe:

Qui meat hac oret Signum Salutis aderit,
Utque Siba deter Veniam. Rosamunda Precetur.

And also by the following story, Rosamond, during her residence at the Bower, made several visits to Godstowe, where being frequently reproved for the life she led, and threatened with the consequences in a future state, she always answered, she knew she should be saved: and as a token to them, shewed a tree, which she said would be turned into stone when she was with the Saints in heaven. Soon after her death this wonderful metamorphosis happened, and the stone was shewed to strangers at Godstowe, till the time of the dissolution.

In 1703, a walnut tree being rooted up by a violent storm, a fragment of an ancient tomb-stone was discovered, having this inscription in antique characters, "Godestowe un Chaunterie J——." A print of this, with some conjectures thereupon, is given in the last edition of *Leland's Itinerary*.

The remains of this nunnery are only part of the tower of the church, and a small chapel, and some of the exterior walls. These, however, suffice to shew it was a place of considerable extent.

In this chapel is a large stone coffin, pretended to be that from which Rosamond's bones were taken; it seems to have been contrived for two bodies, having been divided in the middle by a ridge of stone running from head to foot. On the inside of the south wall was newly wrote, the following epitaph, being a copy of that said to have been placed on her tomb, and which contains a quibble on her name:

Hic jacet in Tumba, Rosa mundi, non Rosamunda
Non redolet, sed Olet, quæ redolere Solet.

The

The walls of this building appear to have been formerly painted. Here is a pond which is said to have been once a paved bath. The common people have a story of a subterraneous passage from hence to Woodstock. A labouring man told Mr. *Harnwell*, that he entered so far into one as to pass through three gates, but was deterred from going any farther by an est falling on his shoulder. If there is any truth in this relation, it might possibly be a drain. The story of subterraneous passages is told of most religious houses.

This nunnery was founded the latter end of the reign of King Henry the first, by Editha, a religious matron of Winchester. The legend says, she was directed by a vision, to repair to a place near Bisney, and there to erect a nunnery, where a light from heaven should appear.

The Bishoprick of Oxford is said to be but of late erection, no longer ago than the reign of King Henry the Eighth, when Robert King, the last Abbot of Osney Abbey, was elected Bishop in the year 1541; the city is governed by a Mayor, or High Steward, Recorder, four Aldermen, two Bailiffs, a Town-Clerk, and twenty-four Common-council-men. The magistrates are subject to the Vice Chancellor in all affairs of moment, even relating to the city; and the Mayor takes an oath before the Vice Chancellor, to preserve the privileges of the University. Here are two charity schools, one erected by the University for fifty-four boys, the other by the city for fifty boys and girls. Oxford gives the title of Earl to the family of Harley.

Having viewed every thing remarkable in the University and City, we shall make an excursion to Woodstock, which is famous for a manufacture of polished steel and leather gloves. It is a corporation, governed by a Mayor, Recorder, four Aldermen,

Aldermen, and sixteen Common-council-men. It has three alms-houses, and a school founded the twenty-seventh of Elizabeth, by Mr. Richard Cromwell, Citizen and Skinner of London.

Woodstock, Dr. Plot says, was a seat-royal ever since the days of King Alfred, which is confirmed by a manuscript in the Cotton Library. This place was so considerable in the time of King Etheldred, that he held a parliament here, by which it appears there must have been a house of the Kings of England here, before King Henry the First rebuilt it, and enclosed the park with a wall, which it is said was for the keeping of foreign wild beasts. Henry the Second made great improvements in this seat, where he kept his beautiful mistress, fair Rosamond, whom we have before spoken of.

In this palace, Edmund, the son of Edward the first, was born, and thence denominated Edmund of Woodstock; as was Edward the Black Prince. The Princess Elizabeth, afterwards Queen, was kept a prisoner here under the persecutions of Queen Mary. In the time of the civil wars, this palace felt the rage of fanaticism. Its magnificent ruins were remaining within the memory of man near the bridge, to the north, on the spot where two elm-trees have been since planted as a memorial.

Queen Anne, in reward for the faithful services of John Duke of Marlborough, granted him, with the concurrence of parliament, the park and manor of Woodstock, with other appurtenances.

The Castle of BLENHEIM, though it consists of a variety of beautiful and noble architecture, yet it is a heavy monument of a nation's gratitude, as it was raised at the public expence, it was designed to be more magnificent, but, alas! Sir John Vanbrugh was the architect.

Through

Through a spacious and elegant portal, erected at the charge of the old Duchess Dowager of Marlborough, we enter the park, which brings us to the house on the east side, where is a portal built in the style of Martial architecture, which leads into a quadrangle, chiefly consisting of arcades and offices; from hence we pass into the grand area.

In the centre of the front, a superb portico, elevated on massy columns, admits us to

The GRAND HALL,

Which is one of the largest and finest rooms in England; its dimensions are fifty three feet by forty-four, and sixty high, which is the height of the house. There is a gallery, which is supported by large and well-proportioned pillars of the Corinthian order. The cieling is painted by Sir James Thornhill, and represents the Duke of Marlborough crowned with victory, who points to a plan of the battle of Blenheim.

Over the door of the saloon, is a bust of John Duke of Marlborough.

Venus de Medici, and the Fawn, two statues in bronze, done from the originals, in marble.

Above, upon the right and left, are several marble termini, with two excellent statues of a nymph and a bacchanal.

The Bow Window Room.

The tapestry of this apartment represents the battles of Alexander the Great, and his visit to Diogenes: after Le Brun.

Over the door next the passage, a Virgin and Child: by Vandyck.

Over

Over the chimney, Christ taken down from the Cross : by Jordaens of Antwerp.

Over the door next to the bed-chamber, a Saint Jerome.

Over the opposite door, a Magdalen : by Palma Giovani.

In the pannel to the left of the chimney beginning from the top, is a Head, after Han. Carrache, by Reynolds.

A Head of Anne Countess of Sunderland.

A Head of Diana : by Guido Rheni.

A Woman's Head : by Rubens.

A Head of John Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke and Duchess's Bed-chamber.

Over the chimney is a whole length portrait of John Duke of Marlborough, by Sir Godf. Kneller.

The Duke's Dressing Room.

This tapestry represents more of Alexander's battles : after Le Brun.

Over the chimney is a whole length portrait of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough.

Over the door going in from the bow window room, is Lot and his daughters : by Del Prete Genoese.

Over the opposite door is a battle piece : by Bourgonione.

Breakfast Room.

On the side opposite the chimney, the middle picture in the top row is of Rubens, his wife, and his child : by Rubens.

On

On

On the side of this nearest window, is a portrait of the Marchioness de Havre, very fine : by Vandyck.

On the other side, Mary of Medicis, also very capital : by Vandyck.

Under this is a small piece : by Rottenhammer.

Under the Rubens, a battle piece : by Bourgonione.

Under the other Vandyck, another piece : by Rottenhammer.

On the next side in the middle, is a very capital piece of Bacchanalians, &c. by Rubens.

On one side of it is a fine full length portrait of the Third, of Spain : by Titian.

On the other, Andromeda : by Rubens.

Under these are the following, beginning from Philip the Third.

The Baptism of our Saviour : by —

A man's head : by Holbeins.

A landscape with cattle : by Rosa di Tivoli.

A man's head : by Titian.

The Offering of the Magi : by Rubens.

On the chimney side, top row, beginning next to the Andromeda, is a very scarce day light : by Vanderneer.

Over the chimney, St. John writing the Apocalypse : by Spagnolette.

A naked man tied to a tree, very fine colouring : Flemish School.

Under the Vanderneer, the bones found in the wilderness : by Old Franck.

Under the naked man, is the Circumcision of our Saviour : by Rembrandt.

Over the adjoining door, is a holy family, said to be by Raphael.

Over the opposite door, is a holy family : by Rubens.

Blue

Blue Drawing Room.

Over the door next to the breakfast-room, a holy family: by Rubens.

Over the chimney, a Madona standing on a globe surrounded by Angels, very capital: by Carlo Marratti.

Under this are two small and capital pictures: the right hand one by Agos. Carrache.

The left hand one, by Tintoret.

Next the Roman Charity, very fine: by Rubens.

Lot's departure out of Sodom: by Rubens.

Over the door going into the bed-chamber, The flight into Egypt: by Rubens.

Next, the Offering of the Magi: by Rubens.

The under row, beginning from the chimney, a capital picture of our Saviour blessing the Children: by Rubens.

Raphael's Dorothea, exceeding capital: by Raphael.

Pope Gregory, and a female martyr with a palm branch, very fine: by Titian.

A portrait of Paracelsus: by Rubens.

A holy family, very fine: by Agostino Carrache.

A Magdalene, in his best manner: by Carlo Dolci.

A Virgin and Child: by Solimani.

The State Bed-Chamber.

Over the door, next the Winter drawing-room, is an original picture of Mrs. Killigrew and Mrs. Morton, two celebrated beauties: by Vandyck.

Over the other door is a picture of Lord Stafford and his Secretary: by Vandyck.

Next to this, a young woman's head: by —

Ditto, its companion: by —

Time

Time cutting Cupid's wings : by Vandyck.
 Catherine of Medicis : by Rubens.
 George Duke of Marlborough : by Reynolds.
 Caroline Duchess of Marlborough, and her daughter Lady Caroline Spencer : by Reynolds.
 Under these, in the bottom row, is an angel, by Correggio.

A landscape.
 A holy family, very capital : by Han Carrache.
 A landscape,
 A circular landscape,
 A landscape : by Vanderneer.
 Ditto : by Wouvermans.
 A small neat landscape : by Paul Bryle.
 A small group of figures : by Patterre.
 Cattle, &c. by Wouvermans.
 The Annunciation : by Correggio.
 Second row, St. John the Apostle, and our Saviour : by Carlo Dolci.

And in this apartment is a blue damask state-bed adorned with martial trophies ; designed by Chambers.

The Winter Drawing Room.

This tapestry is a representation of the Cardinal Virtues.

Over the chimney is a very capital and famous original picture of a Virgin and Child, St. John and St. Nicholas : by Raphael.

Over the door next the state bed-chamber, is Isaac blessing Jacob : by Rembrandt.

Over the other door, the woman taken in adultery : by Rembrandt.

The Dining Room.

Over the door, going in from the drawing-room, is St. Lawrence distributing the ornaments of the altar to the poor : by Del Prete Genoesse.

Next, a Bacchanalian piece : by Rubens.

Venus and Adonis : by Rubens.

Over the chimney, fortune-tellers : by Valentino.

Lot and his daughters, very capital : by Rubens.

A most noble landscape : by Claude Lorrain.

Over the other door, the Rape of Europa : by Paul Veronese.

In the pannels near the windows, are six small landscapes : by Wootton.

The Saloon

Is forty-four feet by thirty-three, and forty-five high ; the door-cases are of marble, and exceedingly magnificent. The lower part is lined with the same, on which account, though it is deemed by some improper, it is calculated to afford a cool retreat in the warmest weather. This is a common fashion in the warmer climate of Italy.

The different compartments represent different nations, in their various habits and modes of dress : by La Guerre.

The cieling is emblematic, and represents John Duke of Marlborough in the midst of his victories stopt by Peace, and Time reminding him of the rapidity of his own flight ; and is also painted by La Guerre.

Over the right-hand chimney as you enter from the hall, a bust of Carracalla.

Over the other, a bust of a Roman Consul.

Drawing Room to the right of the Saloon.

The tapestry represents some of John Duke of Marlborough's battles.

Over the chimney is a whole length portrait of Charles Earl of Sunderland : by Sir Godf. Kneller.

Beneath, is a bust of —

Over

Over the nearest door to the saloon, is a portrait of a young Knight of Malta : by Baroccio.

Over the opposite door, Meleager and Atalanta, very masterly : by Rubens.

In the pannel near the window by the door next the saloon, is at the top, the Adoration of the Shepherds : by Luca Giordano.

Under it, a Madona and Child : by Nic. Pouffin.

A landscape : by Wootton.

In the pannel opposite to this is, The offering of the Magi : by Luca Giordano.

A holy family : by Nic. Pouffin.

A landscape : by Wootton.

Middle Drawing Room right of the Saloon.

The tapestry is a further description of the battles of John Duke of Marlborough.

Over the chimney, a portrait of Anne Countess of Sunderland : by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Underneath this is a capital painting upon black marble : by Aleffandro Veronese.

Over the first door going in, is a picture of an Astronomer and his family : by Dobson.

Over the opposite door, is a capital piece with cattle and figures : by Castiglione.

Drawing Room next to the Library.

The tapestry is a continuation of the battles of the Duke of Marlborough.

Over the chimney, a very capital picture of Seneca bleeding to death : by Luca Giordano.

In the pannel to the left at the top, is a portrait of King Edward the Sixth : by Holbeins.

A view of architecture.

The burning of Troy.

Over

Over the door going in, a still life: by Malteze.

Over the opposite door, ditto: by Malteze.

The LIBRARY.

This superb room is one hundred and eighty-three feet five inches long; in the middle it is thirty-one feet nine inches wide, and at each end twenty-eight feet six inches wide. The Doric pilasters are of marble, with the complete columns of the same, which support a rich entablature, the window frames, the surrounding basement of black marble, and the stuccoed compartments of the vaulted ceiling, are in the highest taste both of design and finishing. It was originally intended as a gallery for paintings; but the late justly lamented Duke added utility to elegance, having furnished it with the noble collection of Books, made by Lord Sunderland, his Grace's father. Their number is said to amount to twenty-four thousand volumes, which have been allowed to be worth thirty thousand pounds, and we may venture to pronounce them the best private collection in England. They are kept under gilt wire lattices. That no assistance to learning might be wanting, the late Duke placed here a fine Orrery and Planetarium.

At one end of the room is a highly finished statue of Queen Anne, by Risbrack, with this inscription.

To the Memory of Queen ANNE,
Under whose Auspices
JOHN Duke of MARLBOROUGH
Conquered
And to whose Munificence
He and his Posterity
With Gratitude
Cwe the Possession of BLENHEIM.
A. D. MDCCXXVI,

The

The PORTRAITS are,

Diana Duchess of Bedford : by Slaughter.

Anne Viscountess Bateman: by Slaughter.

Mary Duchess of Montague.

Elizabeth Countess of Bridgwater.

The Hon. John Spencer : by Slaughter.

Ann Countess of Sunderland.

Caroline, present Duchess of Marlborough, by—

George, present Duke of Marlborough : by—

Elizabeth Duchess of Marlborough : by Wood.

Charles Duke of Marlborough : by Vanloo.

Sarah Duchess of Marlborough : by Sir Godfrey Kneller,

John Duke of Marlborough: by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Over the marble door, is a bust of Milo Crotoniensis: by Wilton.

Over the left hand chimney, is a bust of Charles Earl of Sunderland, who collected the books belonging to this library.

Over the right hand chimney, is a bust of Charles Spencer Duke of Marlborough.

Before we leave this Attic gallery, I cannot but direct the spectator to its bow-windows, from whence we have a delightful prospect of the declivity descending to the water, and the gradual ascent of the venerable groves which cover the opposite hill.

The TENIERS PICTURE CLOSET.

Is fitted up in the French taste, and contains a most curious and valuable collection of pictures, all in imitation of the most capital painters, and painted by Teniers.

Opposite

Opposite the chimney are two larger pictures; one the Murder of the Innocents, the other the Inside of a Church; by Steenwyck.

The CHAPEL.

This is one of the wings; in which is a superb monument to the memory of the old Duke and Duchess, by Rysbrack. They are represented with their two sons who died young, as supported by Fame and History. Beneath, in a basso-relievo, is the Taking of Marshal Tallard.

The CHINA ROOM.

This is situated below stairs, and will afford sufficient entertainment to the curious. It is furnished with a most elegant and valuable collection of Dresden China given to the late Duke by the King of Poland, in return for a pack of stag hounds; consisting of tureens, sets of plates, and fantastic figures. The colours are remarkably lively, and the representations highly natural. Here are likewise some beautiful and costly jars, collected at a great expence by the late Duchess Dowager.

The gardens belonging to this Castle consist of about one hundred acres, and are spacious and agreeable; the present Duke has made great additions and improvements.

The park, which is very extensive, between ten and eleven miles in circumference, beautifully varied and well planned; the bridge, chiefly consisting of one arch, in the style of the Rialto at Venice, is magnificent; the water truly noble, and scarcely to be paralleled in this kingdom.

On the pedestal of a stately column, one hundred and thirty feet high, on the top of which is a statue of

of the Duke, is a concise account of the services done by the late Duke, with the recital of several clauses of the act of parliament. On one side is the following inscription, supposed to be written by the late Lord Bolingbroke, while others affirm it was penned by the late Duke's Chaplain.

The Castle of *Blenheim* was founded by Queen ANNE,
In the fourth year of her reign,

In the year of the Christian era 1705.
A monument designed to perpetuate the memory of
the signal victory

Obtained over the *French* and *Bavarians*,
Near the village of *Blenheim*,
On the banks of the *Danube*,

By JOHN Duke of MARLBOROUGH,
The hero not only of this nation, but of this age;
Whose glory was equal in the council and in the field;
Who by wisdom, justice, candour, and address,
Reconciled various, and even opposite, Interests;
Acquired an influence
Which no rank, no authority can give,
Nor any force, but that of superior virtue:

Became the fixed important centre,
Which united in one common cause,
The principal states of *Europe*;
Who by military knowledge, and irresistible valour,
In a long series of uninterrupted triumphs,
Broke the power of *France*,
When raised the highest, when exerted the most;
Rescued the empire from desolation;
Asserted and confirmed the liberties of *Europe*.

&c. &c. &c.

On the left of the road to Chipping Norton, about
three miles from *Blenheim*, is *Ditchley*, the seat of
Lord Litchfield, which is a neat and regular edifice,
built

built of hewn stone; the southern front extremely beautiful, and the two correspondent wings handsome and proportionable, commanding a most agreeable and extensive prospect, in which the magnificent palace just described has the principal effect. In the centre of the front, is

The HALL.

Which is finely proportioned and elegantly decorated; the cieling contains an Assembly of the Gods, by Kent. The other ornaments are busts, statues, &c. a curious model of the Radclivian Library, and a superb and lofty chimney-piece.

Musick Room.

Elegant and well-adapted for the use assigned, ornamented with several family portraits; a landscape by Wootton, in which are introduced his Lordship and the Hon. Mr. Lee, taking the diversion of shooting. Three hunting-pieces by the same hand.

Dining Room.

This room is furnished with much simple elegance; here is a capital full length of Henry VIII. by Holbein.

A family-piece of Charles I. with Charles II. a child, at his knee: by Vandyke.

Sir Henry Lee, with the mastiff which saved his life; by Johnson.—The story of this piece is founded on a miraculous escape of Sir Harry, from being assassinated by one of his own servants, who had formed a design of robbing the house, after having murdered his master. But providentially on the night

night this project was intended to be put in execution, the mastiff, though no favourite with, nor ever before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the servant; when, at length, Sir Harry ordered him to be left: and in the dead of night, the same servant entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog, and upon being secured confessed his intentions.

In one corner of the piece are the following lines:

“ More faithful than favoured.

Reason in man cannot effect such love,
As nature doth in them that reason want:
Ulysses true and kind his dog did prove,
When faith in better friends was very scant.

My travels for my friends have been as true,
Tho’ not as far as fortune did him bear;
No friends my love and faith divided knew,
Tho’ neither this nor that once equal’d were.

But in my *Dog*, whereof I made no store,
I find more love than them I trusted more.”

The Damask Bedchamber.

Is adorned with tapestry; boys squeezing grapes, &c. and engaged in other sports, masterly executed. The furniture of the bed is rich crimson damask.

Here are three portraits, the Queen of Bohemia and Lord and Lady Teynham.

Tapestry Drawing Room.

The tapestry of this room is as capital as the last; the subjects, the Muses and Apollo; Bacchanalian scenes and a Vintage.

The chimney-piece, of black and white marble, is in the Ionic order, and an excellent piece of workmanship.

Several portraits of the family by Vandyke, Johnson and Lely.

The spectator will be pleased with the agreeable landscape, opening to him from the windows of this apartment. It consists of a winding valley, with a serpentine canal, covered with an elegant Chinese bridge, the whole bounded by an easy spreading declivity, interspersed with groups of trees.

THE SALOON.

The roof is stuccoed in a rich, though chaste style. The middle compartment is Flora, with the Zephyrs. The walls are also stuccoed, and painted of an olive colour; on which are Minerva and Diana, whole length bas reliefs, in the antique style.

Here is an excellent antique of the goddess Health, about forty inches in height; lately purchased from Dr. Mead's collection. On its pedestal is a bas relief of the head of Æsculapius, cut with a remarkable boldness. Here is also an antique medallion of the Sailing Cupid. The diameter is about twelve inches.

Green Damask Drawing Room.

The chimney-piece is finely executed by Skee-maker. In the middle is a landscape by Wootton.

Over the doors are two striking pieces, brought from Italy, of ruins, rocks, and cascades. The architecture in the manner of Panini.

Here is also a table of Italian marble, having a greenish ground interspersed with white veins, which is a most beautiful and valuable curiosity.

Gilt

Gilt Drawing Room.

This was formerly called the Best Dining Room. Here are several portraits by eminent masters; the decorations of the wainscot are gilt; and the ceiling beautifully stuccoed.

The chimney-piece of this apartment is also executed by Scheemaker: In the frieze a Bacchanalian's head finely executed; and over it a landscape by Wootton.

The Velvet Bedchamber.

Both the bed and hangings of this apartment are of rich figured velvet, made on purpose at Genoa, for Admiral Lee.

The chimney-piece is executed in a masterly manner.

And here is a dressing table of curious workmanship, done in France. It consists of a dark coloured wood, inlaid with fine ramifications of brass-work.

The Tapestry Room.

This apartment, which is the last we are shewn, is curiously ornamented in the Chinese taste.

Here are two striking pieces of tapestry; one of which represents the Cyclops forging the armour of Æneas; the other, Neptune, with his proper attendants, giving directions about refitting a vessel, which has just been shipwrecked.

Over the chimney-piece, which is finely finished in white marble, is a capital picture of the Duke and Duchess of York, and the Princesses Mary and Anne; by Sir Peter Lely.

Over the two doors are two masterly landscapes, by an Italian hand.

The

The chairs are covered with tapestry; each of which is prettily ornamented with the story of a fable from *Æsop*.

A small fire-screen in this apartment, beautifully worked with a needle, by the late Lady Litchfield, cannot escape the attention of the curious: the subject of which is the Rape of Proserpine.

In conformity to the style of this apartment, here are two beautiful Chinese figures; one a Chinese lady, the other a porter with a chest of tea.

Near to Chipping Norton, about sixteen miles from Oxford, and about four from Ditchley, is

Heythorp, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury; it stands on an eminence, in a delightful spot, and has every charm that can result from a diversity of wood, water, eminences and vales, and will fully repay the curious traveller for the trouble he may have in directing his course out of the strait road, in order to obtain a view of it.

The approach to the grand area before the house is exceedingly magnificent, leading through an avenue of about two miles, planted on each side with forest trees, interspersed with clumps of fir, &c. The house is a regular edifice, consisting of four fronts, built in the most elegant stile of architecture, and is joined to the office by open arcades, which have a very pleasing effect. We enter the house by a flight of steps under a grand portico, supported by four lofty Corinthian columns.

The H A L L

Is a well-proportioned room, thirty-two feet by twenty-nine. It is finished in plain stucco, and adorned with vases and lamps upon highly finished brackets. The two large silvered sashes on each side of the door leading to the saloon, has a pleasing deception.

From

From the hall, we are led to the grand stair-case, the walls and cieling of which are ornamented with pannels and festoons of stucco. We next enter

The Lesser Breakfasting Parlour.

A neat and commodious room, adorned with four landscapes, by an eminent Italian master; a painting of Judith, with the head of Holoernes, and the martyrdom of St. Sébastian, with some other landscapes and portraits, the painters unknown.

From hence, thro' the anti-chamber, we pass to

The Blue Drawing Room,

Which is an apartment of twenty-one feet by eighteen and a half, and enriched with an elegant chimney-piece, of Sienna and Statuary marble, executed by the late Mr. Carter.

Over the chimney is a family-piece of King Charles II. with his two sisters, when young, by Vandyke; and on the sides of the room the portraits of the present Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, by Mr. Hoare of Bath. Under the picture over the chimney-piece, and upon the opposite pier, are two large glasses in gilt frames richly carved, by Snetzler. Adjoining to this is

My Lord's Bed Chamber,

Fitted up with tapestry, in which is a rich blue damask bed and furniture. Close to which is

My Lady's Dressing Room.

A neat and elegant apartment, hung with Chinese paper; from whence we command an extensive prospect over the adjacent country.

From

From the bed-chamber before mentioned, we enter

The LIBRARY,

Which is a most superb and magnificent room, eighty-three feet in length, and twenty in height.

The ornaments of this room are masterly: they consist chiefly of the most elegant and highly finished stucco, by the late and present Mr. Roberts of Oxford: the designs of which are admirably adapted to the purposes of the place, and merit peculiar notice.

On the north side are seven recesses, one of which is the entrance from the hall, and the other six are filled with elegant book-cases: in this side are also two superb chimney-pieces, by Carter, composed of the statuary and rich verd antique marble. The entrances at each end are formed to correspond with the other recesses; the semicircular arches over which, as well as that leading from the hall, are ornamented in stucco with fables from Æsop, admirably executed; and a medallion of the same kind over each chimney. The south side, which fronts the garden, consists of eight magnificent windows, with a pair of folding glass doors, which open to the terrace.

The cieling, which is entirely plain, is supported by columns of the Corinthian order; and is encompassed by an exceeding rich Ionic entablature. This room is likewise enriched with pendant ornaments, in alto relievo, of still-life, military, musical, and mathematical instruments; with a judicious mixture of fruit and flowers.

The Best Breakfasting Parlour,

Is furnished with Genoa flowered damask, and has a chimney-piece of fine marble, and very curious

ous workmanship. The cieling and cove are in fret-work compartments, ornamented with birds, foliages, and festoons of flowers; exceeding bold, and of high relief.

The Great Drawing Room.

This apartment is forty-seven feet in length, by twenty-five in breadth, and twenty in height. It is furnished with most exquisite tapestry, which for colour as well as expression, must engage the attention of the curious. This tapestry, which is the work of Vanderborght, represents the four quarters of the world, well expressed by assemblages of the natives, in their various habits and employments. Over the four doors are the seasons and elements painted in a very peculiar style. These figures, in *claro obscuro*, are of inestimable value, and appear as if starting from the canvas. From the vast expression, yet exceeding light tint of these pieces, the spectator is at first ready to pronounce them bas reliefs in white marble, and must be surprised upon discovering the deception.

The chimney-piece is extremely superb, composed of rich Egyptian and statuary marble, executed by Carter.

Suitable to the other ornaments of this apartment, the cieling consists of representations of the four quarters of the world, with the elements, and seasons, in stucco, interspersed with fables and other decorations; and surrounded by a full enriched Corinthian entablature.

On the opposite side to the chimney-piece are two superb glasses, of one plate each, upwards of four feet in breadth, and nine feet high. Under these glasses are two rich tables of Egyptian marble, upon gilt and carved frames; and on the other
piers

piers are two girandoles of exquisite workmanship, by Ansell.

The Musick Parlour,

Is a small, neat room, with a light and well executed cieling.

The Best Dining Parlour.

A very commodious apartment, of twenty-seven feet, by twenty-five. The walls, with the cove and cieling, are decorated with varied compartments of highly finished ornaments, in stucco. Over the chimney (which is an exceeding rich carving in wood, by Snetzler) is a portrait of the late Duke of Shrewsbury.

The environs, or gardens, are laid out with great judgment. A variety of beautiful scenes strike the spectator in a most agreeable succession. With very little appearance of art, nature has received much assistance from taste. To the south-west, lofty trees afford a most refreshing shade, interspersed with openings edged with flowers. Eastward, a small stream is improved into a winding river, broke by cascades, and whose banks are adorned with seats and temples. This piece of water is crossed by a stone bridge, under which is an engine which supplies the house with water. From hence we ascend to a grand terrace, planted on each side with flowering shrubs, that terminate in an octagon bowling-green, where we command eight extensive and different prospects.

Chipping Norton, seventy-five miles from London, was anciently called *Ceapan Nertune*, which implies *Cheaping Norton*, and shews that it was a market-town of note for cheap wares in the time of the Saxons,

Saxons, as does likewise the number of names of merchants as they were called, on the brasses over their monuments in the church. The church is a good building after a curious model; near it are the marks of a castle, and Roman coins are frequently found here. It is a corporation, governed by two bailiffs, and other officers, who are empowered to hold a court, and judge and determine actions under four pounds value. On Chapel Heath, near the town, there are annual horse races.

Adjoining to Chipping Norton, at *Rowlright*, is a little stone henge, called Roll-rich Stones; the vulgar people imagine them to have been men, metamorphosed into stones. Some of the stones in this circle are from five to seven feet high; there is one higher than the rest called the King stone, and some affirm these to have been a monument of some victory, erected by Rollo the Dane, while Mr. Toland positively asserts them to be the vestigia of an old Roman temple. We shall not enter the lists on this subject, but refer our readers to Camden, Plot, Toland, and others.

Near this place is *Hoke*, or *Hook Norton*, vulgarly called *Hogs Norton*, which was stiled *Villa Regia*, and was once a royal seat; it gave title of Baron to Robert D'Oyly, who came over with William the First. It is memorable for the slaughter made of the English there by the Danes in 917; but the inhabitants, says Camden, were formerly such clowns and churls, that *to be born at Hog's Norton* passed into a proverb, to denote such people as are rude and ill bred.

The direct road from London to Chipping Norton, is through Islip and Wheatley, which we have varied a little for the sake of the seats of the nobility. Islip has nothing remarkable, except its being noted for the birth and baptism of Edward the Confessor,

M m

whose

whose font there had, for a long time, been put to very indecent uses, till it was taken into the possession of a neighbouring gentleman.

Not far from Hook Norton, in the cross road to Banbury, is *Tadmerton*, where formerly was a castle, the remains of a large camp of an orbicular form, doubly intrenched, and able to contain a great army, is still to be seen.

Banbury, seventy-five miles from London, is situated on the river Charvel, on the edge of Northamptonshire. It is a large market town, and carries on a considerable trade; it is greatly noted for its cheese, and as Camden's Continuator adds, likewise for its cakes and ale; the country round it is esteemed extremely fertile, and good rich feeding meadow ground.

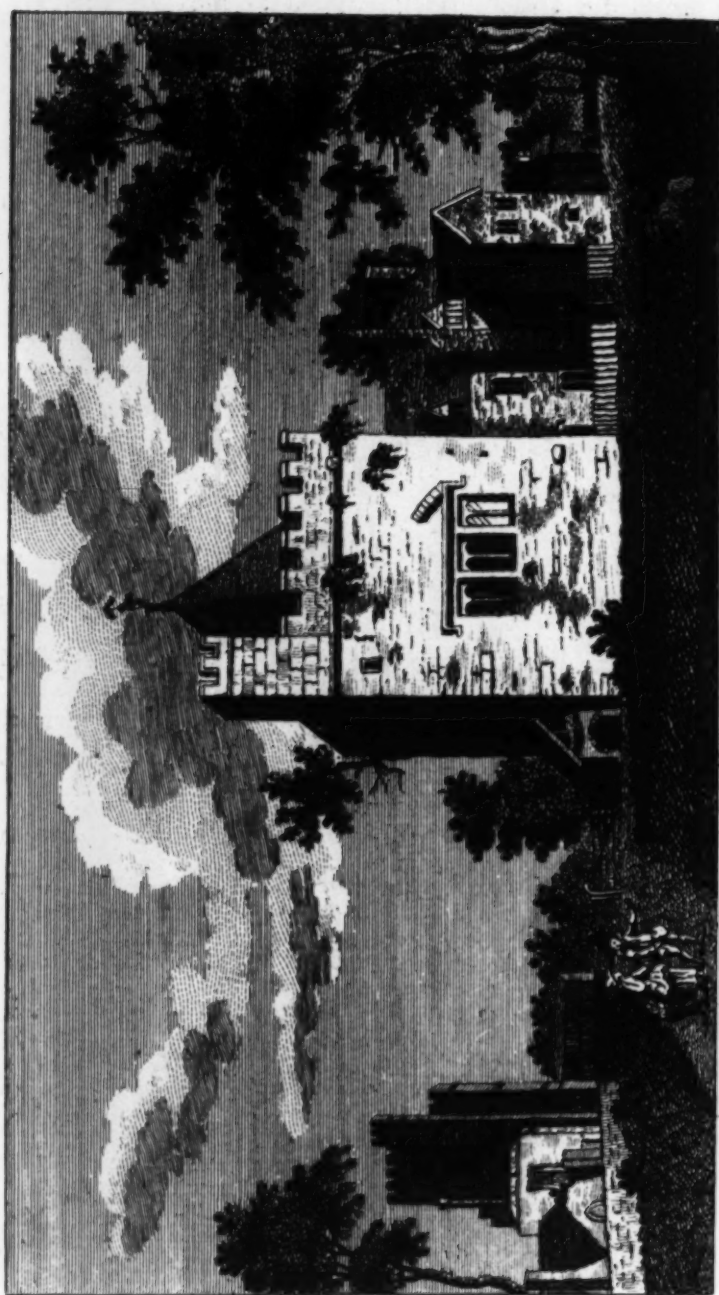
It was anciently called *Banenbyrig*, and here Kenric, the second King of the West Saxons, put the Britons to flight about the year 540. A castle was built here in the year 1125, by the Bishop of Lincoln, then Lord of the Manor. It was made a borough in the first year of Queen Mary, consisting of a Bailiff, twelve Aldermen and Burgessees, and in 1718, a new charter was granted by King George I. with the style of Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgessees. Many Roman coins have been ploughed up in this neighbourhood. Here is a statue for hiring servants, or as the people here peculiarly term it, *A Mop*. This town has two charity-schools.

North of Banbury, on the north-west of the county, are the three shire stones, the boundaries of Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, and Northamptonshire.

We must now return back to Oxford, and take the road which runs west from thence to Whitney and Burford, in our road to which we pass *Ensham*, where is an ancient custom of the royalty of that place;

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The Old Kitchen at Stanton Harcourt Oxfordshire.

place, the town's people were to cut down as much timber as where the churchwarden should mark, by giving the first chop, and after drawing it into the abbey-yard, if they could draw it out again without the assistance of cattle, notwithstanding every impediment made by the servants of the abbey, it was their own, and went in part towards repairing the church. This might be one cause of making the timber scarce about there.

On the left of the road opposite this place, is *Stanton Harcourt*, which is remarkable for an old kitchen. It is a large square and lofty building, of a singular form, and noticed for being without a chimney; a winding stair-case of stone in the turret, leads to a passage round the battlements, and beneath the west of the roof are shutters that lift up to give vent to the smoke; this appears to be of an elder date than the rest. Dr. Littleton, the late Bishop of Carlisle, was of opinion, that it was repaired, and the present window put in. Dr. Plot, in his History of Oxfordshire, speaking of this building, says,

“ ——— And yet amongst all these eminent private structures, could I find nothing extraordinary in the whole: but in the parts, the Kitchen of the Right worshipful Sir Simon Harcourt, Knt. of Stanton Harcourt, is so strangely unusual, that by way of riddle, one may truly call it, either a kitchen within a chimney, or a kitchen without one; for below it is nothing but a large square, and octangular above, ending like a tower, the fires being made against the wall, and the smoke climbing up them without any tunnels or disturbance to the cooks, which being stopt by a large comical roof at the top, goes out at loof-holes on every side, according as the wind sets; the loof-holes at the side next the wind, being shut with falling doors, and the adverse side opened.

Witney,

Witney, situated about sixty-five miles from London, was a town of great repute before the time of William the Conqueror: this was one of the eight manors given by Alvinus to the church of St. Stephen's Winton; he having been suspected of adultery with Queen Emma, who cleared herself of that suspicion by the fiery ordeal.

It is a long, stragling and uncouth town, and is only worthy of mentioning for its noted manufactures of Blanketing and Rugs, there being reckoned to be one hundred and fifty looms kept continually at work here, which support above three thousand people, from eight years old and upwards, and consume above eighty packs of wool weekly. The blankets are usually ten or twelve quarters wide, very white, which some attribute to the absterfitive nitrous waters of the river *Windrush*, where-with they are scoured; but others believe, it is owing to a peculiar way of loose spinning they use here; and others again are of opinion that it proceeds from both. But, however that be, this town has engrossed the whole trade in that commodity, Duffil Stuffs are likewise made here, a yard and three quarters wide, which are carried to New England and Virginia, and much worn even here in winter. Here are also a great number of Fell-mongers. In this town is a good Free-school and a fine Library belonging to it.

A little to the south of Witney, is

Bampton, sixty-nine miles and an half from London. It is situated on the borders of this county, next Berkshire, the direct road to which, from the metropolis, runs through Abingdon. It appears to be of equal antiquity with Witney, and is noted for the greatest market for Fell-mongers in England, which come from Witney.

From Witney, the road runs still west, to

Burford,

Burford, in the way to which is a village called *Aital*, where is a very high barrow, supposed to be the sepulchre of some person of great repute.

Burford is seated on the confines of this county, next Gloucestershire, about seventy-two miles from London. It appears to be a place of great antiquity, and remarkable for a battle fought here in the year 750, likely at a place west of this town, called Battle Edge, when Cuthred, King of the West Saxons, beat Ethelbald, King of the Mercians, and threw off his yoke, taking his banner, whereon was painted a golden dragon, which gave rise to the custom of formerly celebrating this victory here annually, and carrying the figure of a dragon about the town on Midsummer-eve.

A Synod was convened here in 685, against the error of the British churches, in the observance of Easter; and King Henry II. granted this town a Charter, with all the customs of the town of Oxford, but they are now almost lost: however, it still retains some marks of a Corporation, being governed by two Bailiffs and other inferior officers. This town carries on a considerable trade in Saddles, and at the time of the horse-races, on the adjoining downs, it reaps great profit from the numbers that frequent them.

The learned Dr. Heylin was born here; and the famous Speaker of the Long Parliament, Lenthall, had a seat, and died here.

About three miles and an half beyond Burford, on the right, is

Barrington Park, the seat of the Countess of Talbot; and about two miles and a half farther, is

Shireborne, the seat of George Lennox Dutton; a handsome edifice, built by Inigo Jones.

On the north-west of Burford, is

Teynton, which belonged formerly to Tewksbury Abbey. It is a place noted for divers rarities of nature,

Nature. From a hill about a mile north-east of it, is a fine prospect of ten market-towns, which may plainly be seen in a clear day.

Several towns lying straggling from the main road, has obliged us to omit describing them till last : viz.

Tbame, forty-six miles from London, the road to which turns off at High Wycomb, in Bucks ; It is an ancient town, and stands exceedingly pleasant, on the river, from which both it and the county takes their name. This place seems to have been a place of great note formerly, for in the year 910, in the Saxons' time, it was called a Burgh, when the Danes erected a fortification here, which was taken by Edward the Elder, with the slaughter of the Danish King and all the garrison ; but when the Danes over-run the kingdom, in 1010, this town felt their revenge. The town is large, consisting of one great street, in the middle of which is the market-place ; here is also a handsome Church, near which was a monastery of Cistercian Friars, in the reign of King Stephen. Sir John Williams, of Burfield, who had been created by Queen Mary, Lord Williams of Tame, founded a beautiful Free-school, and an Alms-house here.

Near this town, on the right, is

Winpey, the seat of the Herberts. To the left is *Tbame Park*, the seat of Lord Wenman : and about two miles to the west, is

Rycot Park, the seat of the Earl of Abingdon.

Bicester, fifty six miles from London, the road to which branches off at Aylesbury, is the other town we have not yet spoke of. It is a long straggling place famous for excellent Malt-liquor ; here was once a monastery ; but what renders it most remarkable in antiquity, is, its having had a famous castrum on the west side of it, called *Aldchester*, long since passed over by the plough, which has turned up many Roman coins, and other antiquities.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE Ancient Britons gave the greatest part of the inhabitants the name of *Duffen*, i. e. a Vale ; or from *Dofu*, i. e. a Fat Soil : from thence the Romans called them *Dobuni* : the Saxons afterwards called them *Wices*, which is derived from their dwelling near a creek of the sea. This name was again changed by the Saxons into the present name of *Gloucester-shire*, so stiled from the chief town, *Glocester*. *Glaw*, in the British language, signifies Fair ; *Cester* is derived from the Latin word, and signifies a fortified place ; and *Shire*, a Saxon word, which signifies a part cut off or divided from the rest.

The extent of this county is, from north-east to south-west, about fifty-six miles, and in breadth, from south-east to north-west, about twenty-two, which makes it about one hundred and fifty-two miles in circumference. It is bordered on the east by Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire ; on the south by Wiltshire, and Somersetshire ; on the west by Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire, and on the north by Worcestershire.

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The east part is hilly, and not so very fertile; it is exposed to winds and colds, but makes amends by its healthfulness: it is called Cotswould, and generally fed by sheep, which yield an excellent sort of wool; it is parted from the vale by a long ridge of hills, reaching from Campden near Worcester-shire to Lansdown near Somersetshire, which bears several names, according to the parishes through which they pass.

The middle part is a rich vale, lying on each side of the great navigable river Severn, and is of a quite different clime from the Cotswould; and if it be objected against the cold air of Cotswould, that there are eight months winter, and cold weather all the year besides, it may be here affirmed, that there are eight months summer, and warm weather all the rest of the year.

The west part, or forest division, is sufficiently fruitful and good in cloathes grounds, and well furnished with woods and iron; many places in this county bear the name of vineyards, from whence some have concluded that wine has been made in these parts, but this is a mistaken notion, for it is wholly improbable that any other vineyard than that of apples, could grow in these cold barren places spoken of.

The chief river of this county is the Severn, which rises at Plinlimmon in Montgomeryshire, seventy miles above Gloucestershire; it enters this county about two miles above Tewksbury, and runs through it about seventy miles, including the windings of the river, and in some places is two or three miles broad; it comes in with a violent tide called the boar, which rolls with a head from two to four feet high, which often occasions great damages to the country by its inundations, though great care is taken, and great expences laid out to repair the banks

banks of this boisterous river, and to prevent its overflowing the adjoining low grounds.

The other rivers that water this county, are the Wye, the Avon, the Isis, the Windrush, the Coln, the Churn, the Stroud, the Leaden, and the Frome.

The cloathing trade is the principal manufacture carried on in this county, and Mr. Atkyns computes that there are above four hundred thousand sheep constantly fed here. Having given the above general account as fully as the limits of our work will allow, we shall next proceed to describe the remarkables of every place in it worthy of notice.

Joining, therefore, the road we left at Burford, in Oxfordshire, we enter this county at *North Leach*, on the left of which is *Stowel Park*, the seat of Lord Chedworth. We meet with nothing further remarkable on this road, till we come to the City of

Glocester, which is one hundred and one miles from London. It is a handsome neat city, situated on a rising ground, which descends every way from the centre of the town, where the four great streets meet at right angles, where formerly stood the old cross, which was adorned with six statues, six Kings and two Queens of England.

This town was called by the ancient Britons *Caer-Glow*, i. e. a fair city; and has a handsome prospect of steeples, some without a church, its eleven churches having been reduced to five in the time of the civil wars, when it was besieged by King Charles I. The city is tolerably well built, and has a large stone bridge over the river Severn.

The Cathedral is a very ancient venerable building, built by Aldred Bishop of Worcester, afterwards Bishop of York. Its tower is greatly admired, as one of the neatest and most curious pieces of Gothic architecture in England. The cloisters

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within

withinside are exquisitely beautiful; the western part of the Cathedral is old and mean; but from the town you have a glorious prospect eastward, through the choir, finely vaulted at top, and the Lady's chapel to the east window, which is very magnificent. In the choir are these monuments: Osrick, founded the antient nunnery of this place, and built the old church north of the present cathedral; he was afterwards King of Northumberland. He has a crown on his head, a sceptre in one hand, and the figure of the old church which he hand founded, in the other hand.

A black tomb, in the middle of the choir, for the unfortunate Prince Robert, eldest son of William the Conqueror. His monument is of wood, and his effigy carved with cross legs, as he had been four years in the expedition of the Holy Land, and was offered that Kingdom upon the taking of Jerusalem. A handsome monument of King Edward II. in alabaster, who was deposed and murdered in Berkely Castle, in 1326. Round the great pillars, next the tomb, are many figures of stags, which uphold the report, that at his funeral he was drawn by stags, from Berkely Castle to Gloucester. There is another tomb near the altar, for his consort Queen Isabella.

In the body of the church, among other inscriptions, is one to the famous Richard Le Strongbow, who subdued Ireland, and was buried in the Chapter-house here.

The whispering place in this cathedral, was looked on formerly as a wonder: in the cemetary, Dr. John Hooper, the first Protestant Bishop of this church, was burnt in the reign of Queen Mary.

There are many other ancient edifices in the city, but a great number of old houses and other buildings, have been pulled down pursuant to an act of parliament in 1749-50. As the old cross was esteemed

teemed a lofty and beautiful structure, we shall particularly describe it, as it stood in the centre of the city. In several distinct niches were the statues of the following monarchs; King John, because he was Earl of Gloucester, and afterwards, when he was King, he made it a Borough town; King Henry III. because he was crowned here, and by his charter made it a Corporation; and Eleanor his Queen, because she founded St. Bartholomew's Hospital; King Edward III. because of his conquest of France; King Richard II. because he resided for some time in this City, and held a Parliament therein; King Richard III. because he was Duke of Gloucester, and afterwards because he was King, annexed the two hundreds of Dudston and King's Barton to the jurisdiction of the Corporation; Queen Elizabeth, because she established the Protestant religion; and King Charles I. to shew their detestation of the former disloyalty, acted in this place.

The Society of Antiquarians in London, in order to preserve the piece of antiquity we have just mentioned, gave orders to Mr. Rickets of Gloucester, to take particular draughts of the cross and the figures.

In the stead of this cross, there is a statue erected of Colonel Selwyn, a Member of Parliament for that city, who, at his own expence, made a very large noble reservoir of excellent water, about half a mile off, for the public use; the said water is brought through the trunk of the said statue, into a large square basin, placed just at the feet of the statue, and from thence runs out on each side, into four canals, one of which passes through each of the four great streets, for the convenient supply of the inhabitants.

Here

Here are several good charities, viz. Bartholomew's Hospital maintains fifty-four men and women, to whom belong a minister, physician, and surgeon: a blue-coat-school, founded by Sir Thomas Rich, Bart. a native of this place, who left six thousand pounds by his will for that purpose, wherein are educated twenty poor boys; and ten poor men and women are maintained and cloathed annually: besides these are several others, and an infirmary, erected after the laudable example of that of Winchester, &c.

At a small distance from the City, is *Robinhood's Hill*, which affords a pleasant walk for the Citizens: and in the little Alney, near Gloucester, the famous single battle was fought between Edmund Ironside, and Canute, for the whole kingdom, in the view of both their armies.

There is another road from London to Gloucester, by Farringdon, in Berkshire, which enters this county at Lechlade, and is the great road to St. David's.

Lechlade Parish is eight miles in compass, and consists of rich meadow, pasture and arable; the small river Lech runs on the north side of it; and the Isis on the south, which parts it from Berkshire. Near this place, some labouring men digging in a neighbouring meadow, discovered an ancient building; it is fifty feet long, forty broad, and four high; supported with an hundred brick pillars, curiously inlaid with stones of divers colours, of tessellated work, and supposed to be a Roman bath.

Three miles beyond Lechlade, is

Fairford, a small market town, eighty miles from London, through which the river Coln runs, which has two bridges over it. But what this town is most remarkable for is, its large and beautiful church, the windows of which are justly admired for their excellent painted glass; the

the subjects, the stories of the Old and New Testament; the middle windows in the choir, and on the west side of the church, are larger than the rest; those in the choir represent the story of the crucifixion; the window at the west end represents hell and damnation; those on the side of the church and over the body, represent the figures in full length, of the prophets, apostles, patriarchs, martyrs, and confessors, and also the persecutors of the church. The painting was designed by Albert Durell; the colours are very lively, especially in the drapery; some of the figures are so well finished, that Vandyke affirmed, that the pencil could not exceed them. This curious painting was preserved from the zealous fury of the civil wars, by turning the glass upside down.

This church was founded by John Tame, Esq. a merchant of London, who purchased this manor of King Henry VII. This gentleman having taken a prize-ship bound from Rome, in which was this painted glass, he brought both the glass and workmen into England, and built the church for the sake of the glass: it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is one hundred and twenty-five feet in length, and fifty-five in breadth; the windows of the church are twenty-eight in number. There is a raised monument in the church, with two portraits of brass, of the founder and his wife.

At this place are the seat and fine gardens of — Lambe, Esq. and at

Barnsley, six miles farther, is a seat belonging to the family of Perrot.

From Fairford the road branches off several ways, one of which leads through Cirencester, to Chipping Sodbury.

Cirencester

286 G L O C E S T E R S H I R E.

Cirencester is eighty-eight miles and an half from the metropolis; it takes its name from the river Churn which runs through the town, and a Latin word for a castle. This was the *Corinium* of the Romans, but the Saxons named it *Cyrencester*, but the present common appellation is *Cicester*.

The Romans fortified this city, and is esteemed by some the oldest town in the county. The Emperor *Constantine* is said to have been crowned here, and was then strongly fortified with walls and a castle. Some remains of the ruins of the walls and streets are still to be seen in the environs of this town.

In the year 577; the West Saxons utterly defeated the Britons here, and took this city from them; in the year 656, *Peada*, the first Christian King of *Mercia*, took *Cirencester* from the West Saxons; in the year 879, the Danes took it from the Mercians under *Germond*, their General, who built a tower in that place which is behind *Lord Bathurst's* gardens, and by corruption, at this day called *Grizmond's Mount*.

This town has suffered greatly by the Danes, civil wars, &c. and here the first forcible opposition in the great rebellion, 1641, was given, by an insult made on *Lord Chandois*, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, who was at that time executing the commission of array for King *Charles I.*

Here was a church of Prebendaries before the Conquest, and it had also three parish churches, of which only one is left, viz. *St. John's*, which is a large beautiful one, and has five chapels joining to it; the windows have the remains of fine painted glass, where is represented scripture history; and one window, the right side of the south door is almost intire, and is esteemed a valuable curiosity, for it represents all the orders of the church of Rome, from the pope to the mendicant friar.

In

In the east window of the north aisle is neatly painted, the figure of Richard Duke of York, Earl of Cambridge, &c. having in the pommel of his sword, the arms of Mortimer, Earl of March. Many antiquities have been dug up near this town, and coins innumerable; large pieces of carved stones are carried off yearly in carts, to mend the highways, besides what have been used in building; a fine Mosaic pavement was dug up here, in 1723, with many coins. One Mr. Richard Bishop, some years ago, dug up in his garden, a vault sixteen feet long, twelve broad, and supported with square pillars of Roman brick, three feet and an half high, on which was a strong terrace. Many antiquities worthy the notice of the judicious antiquarian are still to be seen at a place called Quern, a little west of the town.

The Saxons are said to have built an abbey at Cicester; very little remains of which are now to be seen.

Tetbury, a considerable market-town, ninety-nine miles from London, is situated on a rising ground, and in healthful air; but it is greatly deficient for water, especially in a dry summer. Here is said to have formerly been a castle and a monastery. The church is large and handsome, with a very high slender spire steeple, at the west end. The market-house is large, and placed in the midst of the town, for the use of the yarn trade: there is a lesser market-house for cheese and other commodities. At the east end of the town there is a very high long bridge, which is therefore called the long bridge; half of it is in Wiltshire. The river Avon rises in this parish, in a small stream, and passing by Malmesbury in Wiltshire, runs through the city of Bristol, and afterwards falls into the Severn.

From Tetbury to *Chipping Sodbury* is thirteen miles, and twenty-two south of Gloucester. It has nothing

nothing very remarkable, except its being an ancient Borough town, and a great thoroughfare to Bristol, therefore full of good inns. It has a spacious church, which, however, is but a chapel of ease to Old Sodbury. The cheese-market here is reckoned the greatest in England, except Athelstone in Warwickshire. The bailiff, by ancient custom, provides an entertainment on every St. Stephen's day, for all the males born in this parish, for which he hath five acres of meadow, and some other small profits towards his charges.

The bailiffs and burghes may, at their discretion, distribute eighty-eight cow pastures to the like number of inhabitants, and eighty acres of meadow to the townsmen, to hold for their lives, and for the lives of their widows.

Wickware, Wooton, and some other parishes, which have nothing remarkable in them to stop our attention, we shall pass over to take notice of

Thornbury, to which we are led by another branch of the road from Fairford. It is a market-town, one hundred and twenty miles from London; here are the foundations of a large castle, designed but never finished, by Edward Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded in the reign of King Henry VIII. The church is large and built in form of a cathedral, with a beautiful high tower at the west end. Here are four small alms-houses and a free-school.

In the road to Thornbury, we pass

Stanley, a little market town on this road. There was formerly a priory, the ruins of which are still to be seen; the church is built in the form of a cross, with a tower in the middle.

The Earl of Berkley has made a noble improvement in these parts, a bulwark being erected at Frampton upon Severn, near this place, called
Hoek-

Hoek-crib, the design of which is to enforce the river Severn by Arts Point, into its former channel.

The tide flows with such amazing rapidity from Frampton to about four miles in length westward, that on its reaching the foot of a hill on the left side of the ancient forest of Dean, and turning round to the northward, it gathers into an head, that looks like an high wier across the river's breadth, bearing every thing before it till it comes to Newnham's Nob, a natural bulwark, which turns the torrent so to the eastward, that when it reaches the north of Frampton, the land between the two parts of the river is but a mile in breadth.

Berkely, where was formerly a nunnery, in the time of the Saxons, to which this large manor did belong; when, or by whom, it was founded, is unknown; but as the account of its dissolution is remarkable in history, we shall digress a little, to insert it for the entertainment of our readers.

“ The potent Godwin, Earl of Kent, had ingrossed all power, and many great estates, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor; still wishing for fresh acquisitions, this fruitful manor attracted his avaritious eye, which it had no sooner done than he resolved to bereave the nuns, and procure it for himself: he accomplished his wicked design in this manner, he had a nephew, a beautiful youth, and of an agreeable address, whom he took with him in his journey from Gloucester to Bristol, and when they arrived at Berkely, the youth was instructed to feign himself sick, and by that means was left behind in lodgings within the nunnery; the youth succeeded in what his uncle had plotted, and grew too familiar with divers of the nuns, and with the abbess herself, who proved with child, to the scandal of that nunnery. Earl Godwin soon acquainted King Edward with the horrid wickedness of those nuns, which was found to be true, upon a legal
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inquisition, the King therefore seized their lands, and granted them to Earl Godwin, and so his villainy prospered according to his first intentions."

The Earl left his wife here, whose conscience being struck with the unjustness of the acquisition, refused to be maintained out of the revenues of this place, and, therefore, Woodchester, a manor in the neighbourhood, was assigned for her subsistence, and indeed the wickedness of the Earl did not long prosper, for the large fruitful isle, since known by the name of Godwin's Sands, being part of his possessions, was irrecoverably swallowed up by the sea, and he and his whole family were not long afterwards rooted out of the kingdom.

Berkely is the largest parish in the county, and consists of rich meadow grounds, and above thirty parishes depend on this manor. It belongs to the present Earl of Berkely, who is also Baron of Dursley; here is a strong castle which is very ancient and magnificent, the seat of the Earl of Berkly, from whence it derives its name as well as title, ever since the time of King Henry the II. who gave it to Robert Fitzharding, who assumed the name of Berkly. King Edward the II. of England was murdered here, and they shew the apartments where they say that King was a prisoner. Adam, Bishop of Hereford, is justly branded with infamy in history, for his part, in this transaction, he wrote ambiguous words to the keeper, to promote the death of the King, and cover his own guilt. The words bore a different construction, according to the stops in reading them.

Edwardum occidere nolite timere bonum est.

"To murder King Edward fear; not to do it is praise worthy.

"To murder King Edward fear not; to do it is praise worthy."

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Berkeley Castle Gloucestershire



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The church is large and handsome, and is the burying-place of the Berkely family. In it are several beautiful monuments.

There is a rock of stone, at Dursley, about four miles from this town, which has neither chop nor slit, but is of an incredible durance, yet soft enough to be hewn; it is called by the inhabitants *Puff-Stone*. The walls of this castle were built of this stone, and though they are about six hundred years standing, yet no decay can be perceived.

Dursley is a good cloathing and market-town, and has formerly been noted for sharp, over-reaching people; from whence arose a proverbial saying of a tricking man, *He is a man of Dursley*.

Another road from Fairford, leads to *Painswick*, through *Bisley*; in the last parish is

Todmore Bottom, where the first cloathing mill in these parts was erected: it likewise gave birth to the famous Friar Bacon. He was educated at St. Mary's chapel, afterwards St. Bury Mill on Stroud river, in the parish of Hampton, wherein is a room, called Friar Bacon's Study: he died in the year 1284.

Painswick is only remarkable for an ancient fortification on Kingsborough Hill, called also Castle Godwin, a very steep eminence in this parish; from whence is a fine prospect of the Severn, and on a great part of the vale. It is surrounded by double deep trenches. The name is derived from *Kynemares Barrow*, which signifies in Saxon, the King's eminent Hill.

The vale that crosses the country in these parts, running from east to west, deserves particular mention for its pleasant situation and fertility. They are famous about here for not only making the finest cloths, but also for dying them of the beautifullest scarlet. The two pieces of cloth one scarlet, and other crimson in grain, sent as presents to
King

King George I. while Elector, and the other to his late Majesty, were so exceedingly fine, that they were valued at forty-five shillings per yard.

Kingwood, about sixteen miles south of Gloucester, gives name to a forest in the hundred of Wootton, which consists chiefly of coal mines. The parish stands upon the river Avon, and tho' encompassed by Gloucestershire, and in the same diocese, and though it is seven miles from Wiltshire, yet it is in the latter county, and under the power of its sheriffs and justices.

An abbey was formerly founded here by William De Berkely, in the year 1139, in the reign of King Stephen, for monks of the Cistercian order. Mr. *Atkyns*, in his account of Gloucestershire speaks of it as follows: "The situation of the abbey was near to Wickwar, now in the possession of Mr. Mitchell; the gate-house is still to be seen; and a considerable part of the abbey is yet standing, but divided into several tenements. There is carved, and still remaining, over the kitchen chimney of the abbey, a Tyger, an Hart, an Ostrich, a Mermaid, an As, and a Swan; the first letters of which creatures spell Thomas, the name of that Lord Berkeley who was a considerable benefactor and patron to that foundation."

The whole parish is tythe free, by virtue of a grant to the above abbey.

About three miles from Bristol, is

Pen Park Hole, where was formerly a pit for lead ore: it has a narrow descent, as it were by a tunnel, only two yards broad, and near forty yards deep into a rock, after which it opens to a cavern seventy-five yards long, forty-one broad, and nineteen high. In this there is a pool of sweet good water, twenty-seven yards long, twelve broad, and five and a half deep; and the lowest bottom of the pool

is

is twenty yards higher than the highest tide of the Severn, which is three miles distant.

At *Stynebridge* on the banks of the Severn, ten miles below Gloucester, a family is taken notice of, of the name of Knight, which has been distinguished for many generations, by having five fingers and a thumb on each hand.

At *Badmington Magna*, about four miles from Sodbury, is an ancient seat of the Dukes of Beaufort; King William, who came hither from Kingsroad, where he landed on his expedition to Ireland, said to the then Duke, "That he was not surprized at his not coming to court, when he had so sumptuous a palace of his own.

Near Henbury, three miles south-west of Bristol, and seven from Thornbury, is

Blaise Hill, where anciently stood a chapel dedicated to St. Blaise, but long since demolished. The foundation stones of the chapel were dug up in 1707, where many modern coins, as also ancient Roman coins, and other Roman antiquities were found; and in a vault ten yards long and six broad, supposed to have been in the church, many human bodies were discovered, whose skulls and teeth were entire, white and firm. The hill is round, and affirmed by tradition to have been a Roman fortification, from the bulwarks of great height raised on the west and north sides.

In this hundred is the village of

Aust, where is the ferry over the Severn to Beachly in Monmouthshire, and in crossing from Bristol to Chepstow: the village is situated on a high craggy clift. Mr. *Camden* makes it memorable for the following story, in the reign of Edward the first, who lying at this place, and Leolin Prince of Wales at Bethersley, the latter would neither come down to a conference nor cross the Severn, Edward passed over to Leolin, who seeing the King, threw his

his royal robes on the ground, and leaping into the water breast high, and embracing the boat, said, "Most wise King, your humility has conquered my pride, and your wisdom triumphed over my folly; mount upon that neck which I have foolishly exalted against you; so shall you enter into that country which your goodness has this day made your own." And so taking him upon his shoulders, he made him sit upon his robes, and joining hands, did him homage.

Not far from the landing place, on this side the Severn, is

Kings Weston, the seat of Edward Southill, Esq. built by Sir John Vanbrugh. It is in his heavy stile, and the hall is rendered totally useless, by a vast echo. A prodigious pair of elk's horns, which were dug out of a bog in Ireland, graces one of the chimnies. Here is a very good picture of Lord Thomas Cromwell, by Holbein.

Mr. Southill's house is situated in the midst of some fine woods, with a beautiful lawn before it; and on the right you ascend a hill, a little beyond the breakfasting-house for the hot-well company, where is a most noble prospect. In front is a very fine valley, two miles broad, beautifully intersected with trees and hedges, and bounded by the river Severn, which is here ten miles over; you command King-road, with a fleet of shipping generally lying at anchor; and lastly, the Welch mountains terminate the whole. Behind there is an extensive view of the country, well scattered with villages; the windings of the Severn form near twenty miles, and those of the Avon quite to Bristol. The prospect extends into Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire, Brecknockshire, Radnorshire, and even to Pembrokehire.

Clifton, about a mile west from Bristol, and nine from Thornbury, derives its name from its situation, the

the church standing on a high clift : from this clift is a large prospect into Somersetshire, and the rocks form a view at once pleasing and terrible.

This parish is four miles in compass, and the hot-well here is famous for curing divers distempers, especially the diabetes : Jacob's well, also, a very cold stream, is in great repute. St. Vincent's rocks are likewise in this parish, remarkable for plenty of shining stones, which generally go by the name of Bristol stones : these rocks are of a vast height, and perpendicularly steep to the Avon. The rocks on the other side of the river, are like them for height and steepness, which makes it wonderful how the river should penetrate through them.

Before the port of Bristol was settled in Frome river, there seems to have been a dispute, whether a place called Says-mills, was not as convenient a port as the other ; several men of war and other large ships having been built in that place, has occasioned the extravagant fabulous story concerning St. Vincent, and Goram, a private hermit. The story makes these to have been mighty giants, and that they contended which way the rivers Avon and Frome should vent themselves into the Severn ; if the port of Say's-mills should have been judged more convenient, then Goram had prevailed ; because his hermitage was in Westbury, on the side of the brook Trim, which runs down to Say's-mills : but the port of Frome being thought more advantageous, therefore the miracle relates, that St. Vincent did cleave St. Vincent's rocks asunder, and so gave passage to the rivers ; because these rocks derive their name from St. Vincent ; and there was formerly a chapel on the top of St. Vincent's rock, dedicated to that Saint.

Returning to Gloucester, we shall take notice of

Newnham,

Newnham, which is twelve miles from that city, in the road to Chepstow. It is a very ancient corporation, the charter being granted by King John, and they shew to this day the old sole estate; the town consists of little more than one long street, running north and south, and built upon the high shore of the Severn. There is a great bank of earth on the back of it for its defence, which makes it a very agreeable terrace walk, with a pleasant vale beneath. This place is remarkable for its having been the first fortification that was raised on the other side of the Severn against the Welch; for its having been the manor by which the great place of High Constable of England was held, down to the execution of Edward Strafford Duke of Buckingham, on the 17th of May, 1521, and also for its having given rise to the art of making glass in England, the remains of the first glass-houses that were erected in the kingdom being still to be seen here.

About three miles north from Newnham, is the Parish of

Deane, which takes its name from *Deane Forest*. This forest consists of thirty thousand acres of land, between the rivers Severn and Wye. It is a moist and clay soil, proper for oaks, for which timber the forest has been very eminent, as being most useful for building of ships, and its situation between those rivers is exceedingly commodious for exporting the largest timber. The oak of this forest was so considerable, that it is said the Spanish Armada had particular instructions to destroy the timber of it. It was miserably destroyed in the great rebellion, and the great number of iron forges near it has not a little contributed to lessen the quantity of wood.

At

At our entrance into this county at North Leech, in the main road to Gloucester, there is a road strikes off to

Cheltenham, ninety-three miles from London. The church is built in the form of a cross, with aisles on each side, and a spire rising in the middle, with a good ring of bells. The minister of this parish must be nominated by, and must be a fellow of St. John's College, Oxon, though the vicarage is but forty pounds a year, but approved of by the Earl of Gainsborough, and he cannot hold it more than six years.

Cheltenham mineral waters have a near affinity to those of Scarborough, and are of great service in chronical distempers, if exercise and a proper regimen were directed with them.

There is another road to Cheltenham, which is seven miles farther about; it is through

Winscomb, a small market town, where formerly was a very rich abbey, founded by Offa, King of Mercia; the church is a good building with a handsome aisle on both sides, the chancel is large and at the west end, adorned with battlements and pinnacles.

Nine miles from Cheltenham, is

Tewksbury, so called from Theocus, an eminent hermit, who resided here about the year 700, and had a chapel on the banks of the Severn. The ancient name of this town was *Theodechesberie*, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor.

It is famous for a monastery founded here in 715, by two brothers, Odo and Dodo, who were great noblemen in the kingdom of Mercia. It is likewise memorable for the decisive battle fought between the houses of Lancaster and York, in the reign of King Edward the fourth, of the latter house; who was conqueror.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

At our entrance into this county at North Luffield, in the main road to Gloucester, there is a town called

Coventry, ninety-nine miles from London. The church is built in the form of a cross, with a tower on each side, and a spire rising in the middle, with a good ring of bells. The minister of this parish was nominated by, and must be a fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, though the vicarage is but forty pounds a year, but approved of by the Earl of Cambridge, and he cannot hold it more than six years.

Coventry is a very ancient town, and one of great service to those of Scarborough, and one of great service in the county of Warwick, a fertile and a proper region for husbandry with them.

There is a main road to Chichester, which is given in its former state, it is through

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OXFORD CIRCUIT.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THIS county was formerly a part of Wales, and is in the Diocese of Llandaff; but it has been reckoned a part of England ever since the reign of King Charles the second, when it was made an English county by our Judges keeping the assizes there, in the Oxford circuit. Monmouthshire, among other advantages, is abundantly supplied with water, being not only washed by the Severn on the south, and divided in the middle by that noble river Usk, but the rivers Mynwy, or Monow, and the Rhimi, or Rumney, are the boundaries which separate it from all other counties, except Brecknockshire on the north-west, and a part of Herefordshire on the north, to which it joins by land; for the Wye divides it from Gloucestershire on the east, as the Manow does from part of Herefordshire on the north-east; and it is separated from Glamorganshire, on the west, by the Rumney. All these rivers, especially the Wye and the Usk, abound with salmon, trout, and other fish.

The extent of this county, is generally reckoned about twenty-nine miles from north to south, twenty from east to west; and in circumference about eighty-four, and the area is computed to be four hundred and twenty-two square miles.

Its

Its air is temperate and healthy, the east parts are woody, and the west parts are a little mountainous, but in general it is fruitful enough, and the hills feed cattle, sheep and goats; while the vallies produce plenty of corn and grass, especially the first, of which here is as good wheat as at any other part of the kingdom. Great quantities of its corn have been exported by the Bristol merchants, who send their ships hither for it. Coals are so exceedingly plenty and cheap here, that you see a good fire in the meanest cottage.

The principal manufacture of this county is Flannels. The gentlemen here generally speak English, though among the vulgar Welch is commonly spoken. The natives were anciently renowned for their valour, and the most skilful archers of all the Welch borderers; for they were cruelly harrassed after the Normans came into England, by the Lords of the Montes, to whom several of our Kings granted all they could conquer here for their own.

This county sends three members to parliament, viz. two for the shire, and one for Monmouth, the county town.

Joining the road we left at Gloucester, we trace it through several small towns of but little note, till we arrive at

Monmouth, one hundred and twenty-nine miles from London. This town derives its name from being the mouth of the river Mynwy, between which and the river Wye, this ancient town is pleasantly situated; besides which there is another river called the Trothy, and it has a bridge over each river. The town is handsome, populous and well built, and has been of note ever since the conquest, the castle being famed for its strength in those days, and in the civil wars afterwards. It
boasts

boasts the birth of that valiant prince Henry V. from hence called Henry of Monmouth, and likewise of one of our ancient historians, Geoffry of Monmouth, a fabulous writer. The town retains marks of its antiquity; the remains of walls, lines, curtains and bastions being still to be seen. It was incorporated in the 19th of Charles I. and is governed by two bailiffs, fifteen common-councilmen, and a town-clerk: the corn-market here is considerable, yet the trade of Monmouth is not so flourishing as it has been in former times.

The direct road from Monmouth leads to Abergavenny, but we shall first take notice of

Caerleon, which is one hundred and forty-eight miles and an half from London. It was formerly a place of great strength, the quarters of a Roman legion, and in the time of the Britons, a sort of University and Archbishop's see, which was afterwards removed to St. David's. King Arthur is said to have kept his court here. The fortifications have been a long time ruined. A famous college is likewise said to have been founded here formerly, in which were two hundred students in astronomy and other liberal arts. The name of the town plainly evinces it to have been a Roman station; it signifies the City of the Legion, from the *Legio Secundo Augusta* which quartered here. *Giraldus* says, it enjoyed honourable privileges, and was elegantly built by the Romans with brick walls, about three miles in circuit, and had sumptuous edifices and baths. It has a wooden bridge over the Usk, where it has a harbour for barges.

Between *Caerleon* and Christ Church a free-stone coffin was discovered in the last century; in which was discovered an iron frame wrapped in a sheet of lead, under the frame lay a skeleton, supposed to be that of some person of distinction, from a gilt alabaster statue that was found near it, representing

ing a man in armour. In one hand of the statue was a short sword, in the other a pair of scales, in the right hand scale was the bust of a Virgin, which was out-weighed by that of a globe in the other scale. The remains of this figure was preserved in the Ashmolean repository.

At St. *Julian's* near Caerleon, in the year 1654, a free-stone Roman altar was discovered, as were also hot baths, the bricks equilaterally square, about an inch thick, like those at St. Alban's.

Abergavenny, one hundred and forty-four miles from London, is a handsome well built market-town, situated on the river Gavenny, which falls below it into the Usk, from whence it derives its name. This town is a great thoroughfare from the west part of Wales to Bristol and Bath by Chepstow, and to Gloucester by Monmouth, crossing the river through Colford, and the forest of Dean. Here was formerly a priory, a castle, and the town encompassed by a wall. It is governed by a bailiff, recorder, and twenty-seven burgesses.

At Persfield is the beautiful place belonging to Mr. Morris, where art and nature are so happily blended together with such judicious taste, as to form one of the most compleat and romantic spots in this kingdom. The cluster of beauties that strikes the eye at Persfield, deserves our particular notice; Mr. Young, who was greatly pleased with it, has been very circumspect and descriptive of every particular. "If your purpose is seeing Persfield, (he says) you go from Chepstow up the Monmouth road (unless you go by water, which is a pleasant scheme enough) and pass directly to the house; we were shewn to an adjacent part of the garden, which consisted of slopes and waving lawns, having shrubby trees scattered about them with great taste, and striking down a short walk to the left, come

come at once to a little sequestered spot, shaded by a fine beach-tree, which commands a landscape too beautiful for pencil to paint. This little spot over which the beach-tree spreads, is levelled in the vast rock, which forms the shore of the river Wye through Mr. Morris's ground; this rock, which is totally covered with a shrubby underwood, is almost perpendicular from the water to the rail that encloses the point of view. One of the sweetest vallies ever beheld lies immediately beneath, but at such a depth, that every object is diminished, and appears in miniature. This valley consists of a complete farm, of about forty inclosures, grass, and corn-fields, intersected by hedges with many trees; it is a peninsula, almost surrounded by the river, which winds directly beneath, in a manner wonderfully romantic; and what makes the whole picture perfect, is its being entirely surrounded by vast rocks, and precipices covered thick with wood down to the very water's edge. The whole is an amphitheatre, which seems dropt from the clouds, complete in all its beauty.

"From thence we turned to the left, through a winding walk cut out of the rock, but with wood enough against the river to prevent the horrors which would otherwise attend the treading on such a precipice; after passing through a hay-field, the contrast to the preceding views, we entered the woods again, and came to a bench inclosed with Chinese rails in the rock, which commands the same valley and river, all fringed with wood, some great rocks in front, and just above them the river Severn appears, with a boundless prospect beyond it.

"A little further we met with another bench inclosed with iron rails, on a point of the rock, which is here pendent over the river, and may be truly called a situation full of the terrible and sublime; you look immediately down upon a vast hollow of wood, all surrounded by the woody precipices
which

which have so fine an effect from all the points of view at Persfield; in the midst appears a small but neat building; the bathing-house, which though none of the least, appears from this enormous height, but as a spot of white, in the midst of the vast range of green; towards the right is seen the winding of the river.

“ From this spot, which seems to be pushed forward from the rock, by the bold hands of the genius of the place, you proceed to the temple, a small neat building on the highest part of these grounds; and imagination cannot form an idea of any thing more beautiful than what appears full to the sight from this amazing point of view. You look down upon all the woody precipices as if in another region, terminated by a wall of rocks, which are in reality four or five miles distant. This deception is the most exquisite I ever beheld; for viewing first the river beneath, then the vast rock rising in a shore of precipices, and immediately above them the noble river, as if a part of the little world, immediately before you; and lastly, all the boundless prospect over Gloucestershire and Somersetshire, are together, such a bewitching view, that nothing can exceed it, and contains more romantic variety, with such an apparent conjunction of separate parts, that imagination can scarcely conceive any thing equal to the amazing reality. The view to the right over the park, and the winding valley at the bottom of it, would, from any other spot but this, be thought remarkably fine.

“ The winding road down to the cold bath, is cool, sequestered, and agreeable. The building itself is excessively neat, well contrived, and the spring, which supplies it, plentiful and transparent; you wind from it up the rock, and passing on there are two breaks, which open to the valley in a very agreeable manner; you are then led through an extremely

tremely romantic cave, hollowed out of the rock, and opening to a fine point of view; at the mouth of this cave some swivel guns are placed, the firing of which occasion a repeated echo from rock to rock in a most surprising manner; nor must you pass, without observing a remarkable phenomenon, a large oak, of a great age, growing out of a cleft of the rock, without the least appearance of any earth; pursuing the walk, as it rises up the rocks, and passes by the point of view first mentioned, you arrive at a bench, which commands a view delicious beyond all imagination; on the left you look down upon the valley, with the river winding beneath, the whole surrounded by the vast amphitheatre of wooded rocks, and to the right, full upon the town of Chepstow; beyond it, the Severn's windings, and a prodigious prospect bounding the whole. Whenever you come to Persfield, rest yourself some time at this bench, for, believe me, it is a capital view.

"From thence an agreeable walk, shaded on one side with a great number of very fine spruce firs, leads you to an irregular junction of winding walks, with many large trees growing from the sequestered lawn, in a pleasing manner, and figures by contrast to what presently succeeds, which is a view, at the very idea of which the pen drops from my hand. The eyes of your imagination are not keen enough to take in this point, which the united talents of a Claud and a Poussin would scarcely be able to sketch. Full to the left appears beneath you, the valley, in all its beauty, surrounded by rocky woods, which might be called (to use another's expression) a course selvage of canvass around a fine piece of lawn. In the front, rises from the hollow of the river, a prodigious wall of formidable rocks, and immediately above them, in breaks, winds the Severn, as if parted from you only by them; on the right is seen the town and castle, amidst a border of

wood, with the Severn above them, and over the whole as far as the eye can command, an immense prospect of distant country.

“The sloping walk of evergreens which leads from hence, is remarkably beautiful in prospect, for the town and country above it appear perpetually varying as you move, each moment presenting a fresh picture, till the whole is lost by descending. You next meet with the grotto, a point of view exquisitely beautiful: it is a small cave in the rock, struck with stones of various kinds; copper and iron cinders, &c. You look from the seat in it immediately down a steep slope to a hollow of wood, bounded in front by the craggy rocks, which seem to part you from the Severn in breaks, with the distant country spotted with white buildings above all, forming a landscape as truly picturesque as any in the world. The winding walk, which leads from the grotto, varies from any of the former; for the town of Chepstow, and the neighbouring objects, break through the hedge as you pass along in a manner very beautiful; passing over a little bridge, which is thrown across a road in a hollow way through the wood, you come to an opening upon a scoop of the wood alone, which being different from the rest, pleases as well, by its novelty as its romantic variety. Further on, from the same walk, are two other breaks, which let in rural pictures; the latter opens to a hollow of wood, bounded by the wall or rocks, one way, and letting in a view of the town another, in an exquisite taste. The next opening in the hedge (I should tell you by the way that these breaks and openings are all natural, none stily artificial) gives you at one small view, all the picturesque beauties of a natural camera obscura; a bench, which is thickly shaded with trees, in a dark sequestered spot, from which you look

look aside through the opening, to a landscape that seems formed by the happiest hand of design, it is really nothing but catching a view of natural objects. The town and castle of Chepstow appear from one part, rising from romantic steepes of wood, in a manner too beautiful to express; a small remove discovers the steeple so dropt in the precise point of taste, that one can scarcely believe it real, and not an eye trap. Soon after a large break opens a various view of the distant country; and not far from it another, which is much worthy of remark, you look down upon a fine bend of the river, winding to the castle, which appears here romantically situated; the opposite bank is a swelling hill, part over-run with gorse and rubbish, and part cultivated inclosures: this difference in the same object is here attended with emotions not consonant; the wild part of the hill suits the rest of the view, and agrees with it in the sensations it raises, but the cultivated part being incomplete, and unlike the beautiful farm at the bottom of the before mentioned amphitheatre, which is entire, has a bad effect. Was the whole well cultivated and lively, being rather distinct from the rest of the landscape, it would have a much better effect.

“The last point, and which perhaps is equal to most of the preceding, is the alcove. From this you look down perpendicularly on the river, with a cultivated slope on the other side. To the right is a prodigious steep shore of wood, winding to the castle, which, with a part of the town, appears in full view. On the left is seen a fine bend of the river for some distance, the opposite shore of wild wood, with the rock appearing at places in rising cliffs, and further on to the termination of the view that way; the vast wall of rocks so often mentioned,

mentioned, which are here seen in length, and have a stupendous effect. On the whole this scene is striking.

About a mile beyond these walks is a very romantic cliff, called the Wind Cliff; from which the extent of prospect is prodigious, but it is most remarkable for the surprizing echo, on firing a pistol or gun from it: the explosion is repeated five times, very distinctly, from rock to rock, often seven, and if the calmness of the weather happens to be remarkably favourable, nine times. This echo is curious. Beyond the cliff at some distance is the abbey, a venerable ruin, situated in a romantic hollow, belonging to the Duke of Beaufort, well worth your seeing: and this is the conclusion of the Persfield entertainment."

Chepstow is the next market town that is worthy notice in this county; it is situated one hundred and thirty-three miles and an half from London, the direct road to which is through Gloucester, though there is another road by Bristol across the ferry before-mentioned: it was formerly a place of great note, and is still a well-built populous town. This is the sea-port for all the towns that stand on the rivers Wye and Lug, over the first of which it has a wooden bridge, which is half in Monmouthshire and half in Gloucestershire, and by an act of the twenty-eighth of Elizabeth, it is to be kept in repair, at the joint expence of both counties. This bridge is seventy feet high from the surface of the water when the tide is out; the erecting the arches of such an height is extremely necessary, the tide coming in here as it does at Bristol, with great rage, and in January 1738, the water rose at the bridge upwards of seventy feet, and very much damaged it; one man lost above one hundred and thirty head of cattle, which with other damages it did there, and
in

in the adjacent places, were computed at seven or eight thousand pounds.

Here are the remains of a castle which stand upon a high rock, by the river Wye; it seems to have been built at the same time with the town, to which it was a kind of citadel; but by whom or when, neither Leland, Camden, nor any of the other topographical writers, mention for certainty; it is supposed to have been built by one of the Earls of Pembroke, as it formerly belonged to the Clares, Earls of Pembroke; the last of these, Richard, surnamed Strong Bow, was the first who gained footing of the English in Ireland; by his daughter it devolved to the Pigots, and is now by descent the property of the Duke of Beaufort.

in the adjacent places, were computed at seven or eight thousand pounds. There are the remains of a castle which stand upon a high rock, by the river Wyke; it seems to have been built at the same time with the town, to which it was a kind of citadel; but by whom or which, neither Ireland, Camden, nor any of the other topographical writers, mention for certainty; it is supposed to have been built by one of the Earls of Pembroke, as it formerly belonged to the Glousters of Pembroke; the last of them, Richard, first named Strong Bow, was the first who gained possession of the kingdom in Ireland; by his daughter it devolved to the Percies, and is now by descent the property of the Duke of Beaufort.

to the right and left, both meeting again at this city. Thus on the right leads to Dinton and Camp-
den (where are the remains of a noble house, built
by Sir John de Dinton, who made a grant for the
parliament's army) and crossing the river Avon,
enters this county.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

IS bounded by Herefordshire and Shropshire on the west, Gloucestershire on the south, Staffordshire on the north, and Warwickshire on the east; it is computed to be thirty-six miles in length, twenty-eight in breadth, and contains one hundred and thirty miles in circumference. It sends to parliament (besides two Knights of the Shire) two members for the City, two for Droitwich, two for Evesham, and one for Bewdley.

This county is situated as well as its neighbours, in a healthy air and fertile soil, the hills being covered with flocks of sheep, and the vallies abounding in corn and rich meadows. Here are several very fine rivers, which water every part of the county, and which abound with plenty of fine fish, viz. The Severn, Stour, Avon, Teme, &c. Its commodities, besides corn, cattle, cheese, wool, cloth, stuffs, cyder, lampreys, &c. are perry and salt, the latter they furnish in very large quantities. This county is in the diocese of Worcester, was formerly defended by seven castles, and had nine religious houses in it before the suppression, all endowed with great estates.

Joining the road we left at Enston, we proceed on to Worcester, remarking, that at the four shire stones

stones on the borders of Oxfordshire, the road parts to the right and left, both meeting again at that city. That on the right leads to Darnton and Campden, (where are the remains of a noble house, built by Sir John Baptist Hickes, burnt down in the civil wars, to prevent its being made a garrison for the parliament's army) and crossing the river Avon, enters this county at

Evesham, or Evesholm, commonly called *Easam*, about ninety-five miles from London. It is a very ancient borough town, situate on a gentle ascent from the river Avon, over which it has a handsome stone bridge, of seven stately arches. An abbey of benedictine monks was founded here about the year seven hundred. This town is recorded in history, for the compleat and decisive victory gained here by Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward the First, over Simon Montfort, the great Earl of Leicester, in which he crushed the power of the Barons, by the death of Montfort, and restored his father and uncle, to their liberties.

This ancient borough was governed by Bailiffs till the third year of King James I. who at the request of Prince Henry, granted it a new charter, incorporated it with the title of Mayor, seven Aldermen, Common-council, Burgeffes, &c. This corporation has liberty to try felons, and four of the Aldermen, and the Mayor for the time being, are Justices of the Peace, and of oyer and terminer, and of gaol delivery, for all offences arising in the said corporation, high treason excepted. At the bridge foot, in the division of Bengworth, where is now a church, there was formerly a castle, which the Abbot D'Audeville recovered from William Beauchamp in 1157, and utterly demolished, and caused the ground to be consecrated for a church-yard. There is but this and another church in the town, both which have small spire steeples; but their bells have

have been removed to a famous tower built by Abbot Litchfield, near these churches.

This town has an open prospect of the vale of Evesham, and which is greatly esteemed for its fertility; this vale runs all along the banks of the Avon, from Tewksbury to Pershore, and to Stratford upon Avon, in the south part of Warwickshire, which river is so far navigable.

The other road on the left goes to Morton in Marsh, and enters this county at

Pershore, or *Parshore*, an hundred and two miles from London. It is said to take its name from the number of pear trees, which thrive much in this part. This town is pretty ancient, situated on the river near its junction of the river Bow; it has two parish churches, and is said to have had a monastery built in the reign of King Edgar. It has a considerable manufactory in stockings.

South-east from Pershore, is

Upton, an ancient market town, with a bridge over the river Severn. The Roman coins which are frequently dug up here, give a probability of its having been a station of the Romans, before the arrival of the Saxons.

Near Upton are two villages,

Great Malvern and *Little Malvern*, about two miles distance from each other; the hills here, called Malvern hills, divide this county from that of Hereford, and are very high and lofty, rising like stairs one above another, for about seven miles; on the summit of these hills, is a famous ditch, greatly admired, which Gilbert de la Clare, Earl of Gloucester, caused to be dug, to part his lands on the east side of these hills, from those belonging to the church of Hereford; on the west side. On these hills are two medicinal springs, called Holy wells, one good for the eyes and putrefied foetid livers, and the other for cancers.

Little Malvern stands in a dismal cavity of the hills, and both villages had formerly an abbey of Benedictine Monks, which shared the same fate as the other religious houses, at the suppression. At Litchfield there is a M.S. which shews that the priory of Greet Malvern was first founded by King Henry III. and Edward his son, and that it was endowed with lands by Gilbert, the Earl of Gloucester, above mentioned, who was Lord of the Forest; but that Henry VII. his Queen and his two sons, Prince Arthur and Prince Henry, were so delighted with this place, and so beautified the church and windows, that it is to this day one of the greatest ornaments of the nation; for says the M.S. the glass windows are a mirror, wherein we may see how to believe, live, and die; there being in the lofty south windows of the church, the historical passages of the Old Testament, which are types of the New, and in the north windows the pictures of the holy family, the nativity, and circumcision of our Saviour, the adoration of the shepherds, and the kings, his presentation in the temple, his baptism, fasting and temptation, his miracles, his last supper with his disciples, his prayer in the garden, his passion, death and burial, his descent into hell, his resurrection and ascension, and the coming of the Holy Ghost. The history of our Saviour's passion is painted differently in the east window of the choir, at the great expence of Henry VII. whose figure is therefore often represented here, as is that of his Queen. In the west window is that bold piece of the day of judgment, not inferior to the paintings of Michael Angelo.

The City of *Worcester* is an hundred and nine miles from London. It is the capital of the county, and gives name to it: this was the *Branovium* of the Romans, and seems to have been built by them to curb the Britons on the other side the Severn,

Severn, who called it *Caer Wrangon*. It is situated on the banks of the Severn, with a stone bridge over the same, the arches of which are exceedingly high from the water, and has a tower upon it, said to be built by the Romans. This height is very necessary, the waters rising to a considerable height in the winter.

This city was erected into an episcopal see by Ethreldred, King of the Saxons, in the year 679. In the year 1041, it was plundered and burnt, and the inhabitants put to the sword, by Hardicanute, King of the Danes, to revenge the death of some of his tax-gatherers, whom they had murdered. In 1080, Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, burnt the suburbs, and attacked the city; but the citizens defended themselves so bravely, that they repulsed their enemies with a terrible slaughter. In 1113, an accidental fire almost consumed it, and greatly damaged the roof of the cathedral. In 1202, it was again burnt. It suffered greatly in the civil wars, and in 1657, the famous battle was fought here, wherein King Charles II. was defeated by Oliver Cromwell, and in a garden just without the south gate, where the heat of the battle raged, the bones of the slain are often dug up. A mile and an half above the south gate, on the top of the hill, is the celebrated Penywood, where Cromwell's army lay. Here is a fine prospect from hence; and above in the park is still to be seen a great work of four bastions, called the Royal Mount, from whence a vallum and a ditch runs both ways, to encompass this side of the city. It was probably at this place the battle began, when Charles and his army were driven back into the city, with a loss of a great number of the royalists; and the king escaped being made a prisoner in the narrow street, at this gate, by a loaded cart of hay purposely

purposely overthrown, which gave him time to retire at the opposite gate to Boscobel, or White Ladies.

The commandery here, formerly belonging to St. John of Jerusalem, is a fine old house, built of timber, in the form of a court. The hall roofed with Irish oak, makes one side of it, which was appropriated for the reception of pilgrims. The windows are adorned with painting of images and coats of arms.

Worcester is a very large city, but lies in such a valley, as not to be seen till you come upon it: it is populous and well built, the Fore-gate-street is the most regular that can be seen out of London. The Guildhall is a fine building, the old statues on the out-side disgrace it; but what this city is most famed for is its cathedral, founded by Etheldred above mentioned: it was rebuilt by Wulstan, Bishop of the Diocese, about 1084; it was afterwards greatly enlarged and improved by his successors; though the body of it makes no extraordinary appearance on the outside. The tower is low, without any spire, only four very small pinnacles on the corners; and yet possesses some little beauty, more than the church itself. The upper part has images on it, but decayed by time. Baselus, the first Bishop, was consecrated in 680. In it lies the body of King John, not where his monument now stands, which is in the choir before the high altar; but under a little stone before the altar of the easternmost wall of the church. On each side of him on the ground, lie the effigies of Wulstan and Oswald, the two Bishops, his chief saints, from whose neighbourhood he hoped to be safe. On the south side of the high altar is a large and handsome stone chapel over the monument of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII. who died at Ludlow, as his tomb-stone specifies, in the year 1502; and whose
relict,

relict, Catherine, Infanta of Spain, his brother, Henry VIII. marrying, after twenty years wedlock, was divorced from, to make way for Anna Boleyn. The choir of this chapel is exquisite workmanship; but it was greatly damaged in the time of the civil wars.

Among other monuments of persons of note here is one for that famous Countess of Salisbury, who dancing before Edward the III. at Windsor, dropped her garter, from which the order of the Garter is fabulously reported to have taken its rise from the King's gallantry, to silence the jest and railleries of the court, by wearing it that evening. This monument deserves notice, and is very beautiful, there are several angels cut in stone about it, strewing garters over the tomb: besides there are a number of other monuments and inscriptions.

The cloisters are very perfect, and the chapter-house is large, supported, as to its arched roof, by one umbilical pillar. It is now become a library, is well furnished, and has many ancient manuscripts.

It had formerly a castle, as also walls sixteen hundred and fifty paces in circumference, with three gates and five watch towers. The castle stood upon a very high artificial mount, or keep, nigh the river.

The city is governed by a mayor and six aldermen. It has two chamberlains, a recorder, a town-clerk, two coroners, a sword-bearer, four serjeants at mace, and a sheriff; being, like Gloucester, a county of itself, divided into seven wards, in which are twelve parish churches.

The public workhouse here, is a capacious and beautiful structure, in which children of both sexes are taught to earn their livelihood, and educated in the practice of religion and virtue; by whose labour also the aged and decrepid are supported.

Opposite

Opposite to this workhouse, Robert Berkely, of Spetchley, Esq. erected a fine hospital for twelve poor men, and gave two thousand pounds to build it, and four thousand pounds to endow it. Besides these charities there are three grammar schools, and seven alms-houses, all liberally endowed.

Near Worcester, is a palace called Hartlebury Castle, belonging to the Bishops of that See. The original building, erected in the reign of King Henry III. was demolished in the reign of Charles I. and rebuilt afterwards at the expence of the Bishops of Worcester, in a much more elegant manner.

About seven miles from Worcester, to the north, is

Droitwich, or *Durtwich*, supposed by *Camden*, to have taken its name from its dirty soil. It is a corporate Bailiwick, and a borough town: but what makes this place noted, is the excellent salt works carried on here. Salt having been made in these parts before William the Conqueror's reign, as appears by the Domesday Book. The town stands on the river Salway.

It may be agreeable to many of our readers, to have an account of the process for making of salt at this place; the following is from the Philosophical Transactions, communicated by Dr. Thomas Rastel.

The country is not quite plain, nor has it any great hills, only several small eminencies; the greatest hills are Lichie within six miles, which some call Lookhigh, supposing it to be the highest ground in these parts, because the springs which rise there run both northward and southward; near these are Clent-hills about the same distance; on the other side the Severn are Aberly-hills, at about seven miles distance; there are many salt-springs about the town, which is seated by a brook side, called
Salwarp-

Salwarp-brook, rising both in the brook and in the adjacent ground, though there are but three pits used; where the springs are saltest nothing at all grows, but by the brackish ditches there grows After Atticus, or star-wort, with a pale flower: Some of the salt-springs rise on the top of the ground, and these are not so salt as others; the great pit called Upwich-pit is three foot deep, and in it are three distinct springs rising in the bottom; one comes into the pit north-west, another north-east, the third south-east, which is the richest both in quantity and quality; they all differ in saltness; the pit is about ten feet square; the sides are made with square elms jointed in at the full length, which is supposed to be occasioned by the saltness of the ground that seems to have been a bog; for digging to try the foundation of a Seal, the name of their salt-houses, a long staff was thrust up to the head; the surface of the pit is made of ashes: Though the brine be colder than other water, yet it never freezes; but the rain-water which lies upon the brine, in the extreme hard frosts will freeze a little. The soil on the lower side of the town is a black rich earth, under which at two or three feet, is a stiff gravelly clay, then marle; those who make wells for fresh water, if they find springs in the marle, they are generally fresh; but if they sink through the marle, they come to a whitish clay mixed with gravel, in which the springs are more or less brackish: In the great pit at Upwich they have at once three sorts of brine, which they call by the names of First-man, Middle-man and Last-man, and they are of a different strength; the brine is drawn by pumps, so that that in the bottom is first pumped up, and called the First-man; by filling a quart, which held twenty-four ounces troy of distilled water with the first brine, besides the tare of the quart, it weighed twenty-nine ounces, and made
seven

seven ounces and three drachms of salt without any addition; next day the same salt weighed seven ounces six drachms; so that four tons of brine make above one ton of salt: The same quart filled with Middle-man, which is the second sort of brine, weighed twenty-eight ounces; also a quart of brine, as it immediately came out of the springs weighed twenty-eight ounces, and the third sort twenty-seven ounces; so that what the first gains, the last loses, which precipitates as much in twenty-four hours, as if it stood a much longer time: The quantity of brine this pit yields every twenty-four hours will make four hundred and fifty bushels of salt, which is drawn out two or three times a day.

In the best pit at Netherwich, a quart of brine weighs twenty-eight ounces and an half, it is eighteen feet deep and four feet broad, and yields as much brine every twenty-four hours as makes forty bushels of salt; there is but one spring in the pit, which comes in two feet eight inches above the bottom; the worst pit at Netherwich is of the same breadth and depth as the preceding, and a quart of its brine weighs twenty-seven ounces, and yields as much brine as makes about thirty bushels of salt; in this pit are three springs, two in the bottom, and one about two feet higher; these pits are within six yards of each other, and near the brook; the great pit is on the north side; and on the south-side about a quarter of a mile lower, are the two lesser pits; in the great pit there is no variation either in the quality or strength of the brine, but the springs in the other pits are augmented by much rain and yield less salt. The brine is divided into Phats Wallings that every one may know his own proportion; a Phat Walling is divided into twelve weaker brines; and every weaker brine is divided into eight burdens, every burden being a vessel which contains about thirty-two gallons; whereof every one hath six burdens

burdens of First-man, six of Middle-man, and six of Last-man; so that every one hath not only his just proportion in quantity, but also in quality. This brine is carried in coolers to every man's seal by eight sworn men, called Masters of the Beachin, and four Middlemen, and there put into great tons for use. The fuel formerly used was all wood, but since that hath been destroyed by the iron-works, they generally use pit-coal carried thirteen or fourteen miles by land: The phats in which the brine is boiled are of lead, cast into a flat plate five feet and an half long and three over; and then the sides and ends are beaten up, and a little raised in the middle, and set upon brick work, called ovens, wherein is a grate to make the fire on, and an ash-hole called a Trunk; in some seals are six of these pans, in some five, down to four, three, two; in each of these pans is boiled at once as much brine as makes three pecks of white salt, called a Lade; and it is laded out of the pan with a loot, and put into barrows, which are set into Bastals over vessels called Leach-combs, that the brine called Leach may run from the salt, with which they dress their phats, when the cold brine, they are first filled with, is a little boiled away; in these Bastals the salt stands till it is dry, which is in about four hours, then it is carried into Cribs, which are houses boarded on the bottom and sides, where it is kept till sold, which is sometimes half a year or three quarters; in which time if the Crib be good, it will not waste a twelfth part, the salt itself being of so strong a body; whereas in Cheshire they are forced to keep their salt on barrows in stoves to dry, and to make it no faster than they sell.

For clarifying the brine nothing else is used but whites of eggs; a quarter of a white of an egg is put into a gallon or two of brine, which, being beaten with one's hand, lathers like soap; a small

S f

quantity

quantity of this froth put into each phat, raises all the scum, so that the white of one egg will clarify twenty bushels of salt; and by this means the salt is very white, and it has no ill flavour, as that clarified with blood.

They use nothing at all to make it granulate; for the brine is naturally so strong, that, unless it be often stirred, it will make salt as big grained as bay-salt; and brine has been boiled to a consistence of candy, and clods of salt as clear as the clearest alum have been produced, resembling isle of May salt; so that they are obliged to put a small quantity of rosin into the brine, to make the grain of the salt small.

Besides the white salt, there is another salt called clod-salt, growing to the bottom of the phats, which, after the white salt is laded out, is dug up with a picker, made like a mason's trowel, pointed with steel, and fixed on a short staff; this is the strongest salt, and most used for salting bacon and neats tongues; it makes the bacon redder than other salt, and the fat eat more firm; if the swine are fed with beach mast, it hardens the fat almost as much as if fed with pease, and salted with white salt; it is much used by country-women in their runnet-pots, and they reckon it better for their cheese; these clods are used to broil meat with, laying them on coals; it is accounted too strong for salting beet, as depriving it of too much of its sweetness.

There is a third sort of salt called Knockings, which candies on the stails of the barrows, as the brine runs from the salt, after it is laded out of the phats; this salt is much used for the same purposes as the clod-salt, though it be not altogether so strong.

There is a fourth sort called Scrapings, which is coarse and mixed with dross and dust, and scraped off the phats when they reach them, that is, when they

they take their phats off the fires to beat up the bottom, and it is bought by the poorer sort to salt meat with.

A fifth sort is Pigeon-salt, which is nothing but the brine running out through the crack of a phat, and hardening to a clod on the outside over the fire.

Lastly, the Salt-loaves are the finest of the white salt, whose grain is made something finer than ordinary, that it may the better adhere together; which is done by adding a little more rosin, and beating it into the barrows when laded out of the phat.

At Droitwich they use no iron-pans as in Cheshire and other places; for it has been found upon trials that the strength of the brine doth so corrode, that it quickly wears out those of forged iron, and breaks those of cast iron.

The Droitwich salt is not so apt to dissolve as Cheshire salt, nor as that which is made by dissolving bay-salt, and clarifying it, called salt upon salt, which appears by its keeping long without fire. No salt can be whiter than it, and consequently none freer of dross; it is also the heaviest salt, a Winchester bushel of it weighing half a hundred weight. In the time of the first Dutch war this salt was carried to the west, where before they only used foreign salt; upon first using it they complained it made their meat too salt, which was owing to their putting to it the same quantity as of other ordinary salt.

The proprietors of these salt-pits are a corporation, and none can be a burgess of Droitwich, but he must have a property in the salt-springs. The way from hence to Bewdly was once so bad, that horses were often mired, waggons over-turned, and salt damaged or spoiled by it, upon which a project was set on foot to convey the brine by pipes to Bewdley, and there boil up the salt, and put it
on

on board the barges, but the poor at Droitwich, who were entirely supported by the salt-works and carriage, made such pressing instances against it, that the project came to nothing, and an act was procured to mend the road between the two towns.

King John granted great privileges to this town by a charter, which is still extant: after this monarch's death, in the year 1290, St. Andrew's church with great part of the town was burnt. King Henry III. also, and several other princes, granted them several immunities. In the reigns of Edward I. and II. this borough returned eight Members to Parliament, but discontinued it afterwards till the first of Philip and Mary, when it had farther privileges, besides the renewal of its former charters; and James I. granted them a new one. It is now governed by a bailiff and burgeses. The bailiff is a justice of the quorum and peace for the year after; besides these there is a recorder, who likewise sets as a justice.

The next town of any note, in this county, we have to remark, is

Kidderminster, or *Kedderminster*, an hundred and twenty-five miles from London. It is a compact town, situated on the Stour, not far from the Severn, and carries on a considerable trade in cloth, linsey wolsey, &c. The church is handsome, a good free-school, and two alms-houses. It is governed by a bailiff, who is a justice of the peace, twelve capital burgeses, twenty-five common-council-men, and other subordinate officers, who have a town-hall. It was anciently a borough, and sent members to parliament, and the famous minister, Sir Richard Baxter, was minister of this place. This parish extends to Bewdley Bridge, and includes Rubenhall, and an hamlet adjoining.

Bewdley is an hundred and twenty-eight miles from the metropolis; it is likewise wrote *Beawley*,
or

or *Beaulieu*, so named from its pleasant and agreeable situation, on the declivity of a hill, on the west bank of the Severn, over which it has a large stone bridge. This town was formerly noted for the vast high trees in the adjacent forest of Wye, before they were destroyed by tempests, particularly one which blew down a thousand oaks in this forest and Horton wood. King Henry VII. built a palace near it, called Teckenhall, or Teckenhill, i. e. Goats-hill, as the place was termed before the palace was built; this he erected for the retirement of his son Arthur; this house was situated in a fine park, both of which was destroyed in the civil wars.

This town is a small borough, and governed by a bailiff, who is justice of the quorum. It carries on a considerable trade in salt, iron ware, glass, Manchester, goods, &c. it has a great manufacture likewise in caps, purchased by the Dutch sea-men; they are called Monmouth caps. The town is well supplied with corn, malt, leather, &c.

North of Kidderminster, is

Stour-bridge, or *Stur-bridge*, an hundred and twenty-four miles from London. It takes its name from the river Stour, over which it has a very good bridge. The inhabitants here deal greatly in the glass manufactory, in the latter of which Mr. Richard Foley raised a great estate, since much improved by his posterity. Here is said formerly to have been a monastery founded by Ethelbald, King of Mercia. At Old Swinford, near this town, is a noble hospital, founded and well endowed by Thomas Foley, Esq. for sixty poor children of this and the neighbouring parishes, to teach them reading, writing, &c.

Sturbridge Clay, has long been esteemed for making the finest stone pots, for glass-makers to melt their metal in, also crucibles, &c.

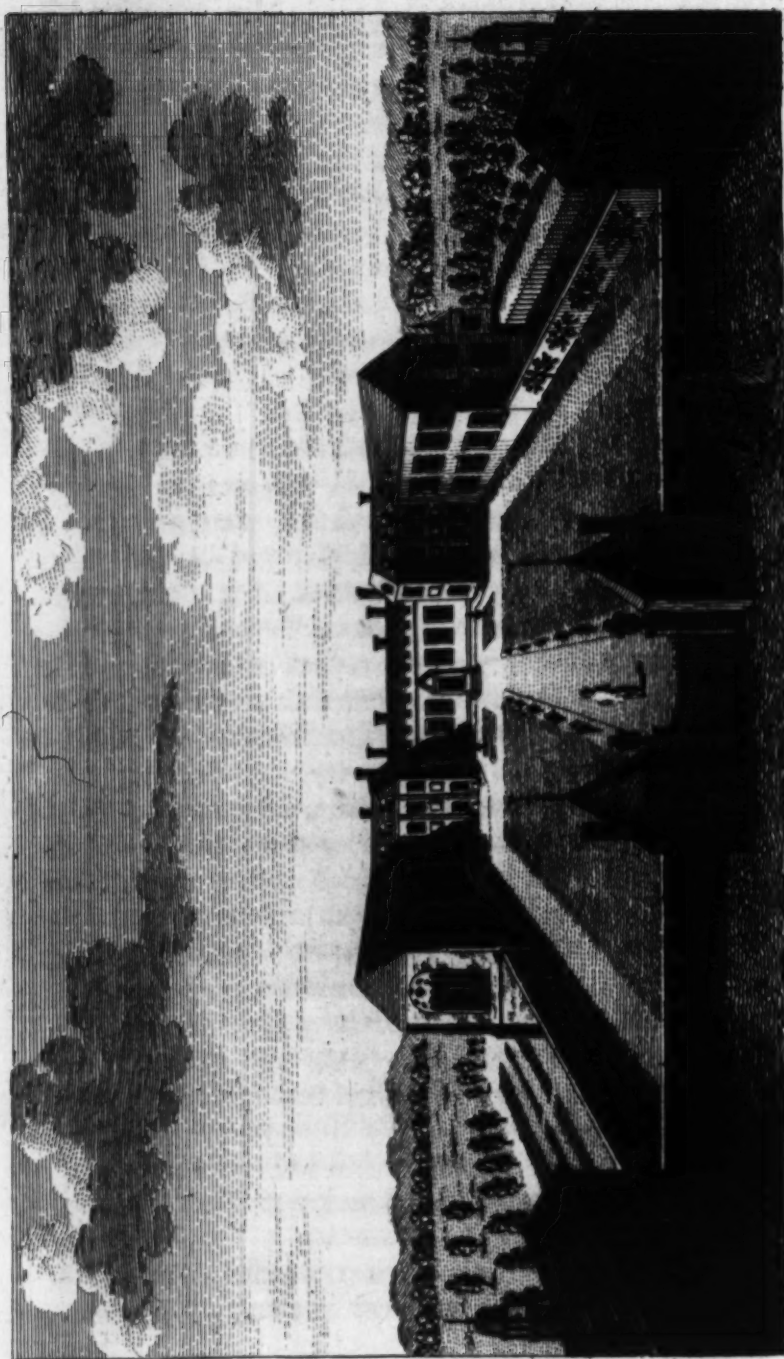
Not

Not far distant from this town, is *Hagley Park*, the seat of Lord Littleton. It is built on a beautiful spot of ground, which has as great variety of hills, valley and wood, as can be imagined in such a space of ground. We shall therefore be particular in our account of it.

At a small distance is a large piece of ground, walled in, which contains a very noble pleasure-garden, or shrubbery, and kitchen-garden; the shrubbery has the greatest variety of native and exotic plants of any other. A little way from the old house stands the chapel, or to speak more properly, the parish church of Hagley; it is very small but very neat, the windows, which are in the Gothic taste, adorned with old painted glass, being broke in some parts, they have been taken out, and finished anew with fresh painted glass, in chequer-work, of various colours, at the sides of the chancel are two marble monuments, with a beautiful inscription to the late Lady Littleton, written by his late Lordship.

The park ascends up all the way to the house, is furnished with a wood of tall stout oaks; in your ascent are several alcoves to rest yourself, in front of which is a very fine cascade, which falling on the right, supplies several large fish-ponds, sheltered by the woods. At a considerable distance on the same side is another alcove, which stands on a favourite spot of Mr. Pope's, and this alcove was erected to his memory, being called Pope's seat; it is situated delightfully, the back part being turned to the south, is shaded with a grove of oaks, which continues round the slope towards the east and north. In the front lies a fine sloping lawn, the favourite recess of a numerous herd of deer, better suited both for repose and pasture, than the more open parched plains. On the left-hand towards the





Hertlebury Castle Warristershire.

the west, is a fine view over the tops of the trees, across the valley, as the eye can be delighted with.

Still ascending up the hill, is a cave, or hermitage, hewn out of a rugged rock, and covered with roots of trees; at the entrance is an ill-shaped stone table, encompassed by a bench of earth, and farther in, dangerous to simple maids, is a mossy bed. At a small distance is a rustic hut, neatly matted round, and towards the roof are various figures, wrought with small pebbles and different coloured snail-shells. From hence you pass by some fishponds which supply the cascade, and at a small distance is a building, which appears to be the ruins of an old castle; the lower part of it is a keeper's lodge; this is near the end of the park, where scaling the pales by means of a double ladder, you come upon an open barren mountain; with here and there a few patches of fir-trees: this is called Clent-hill, and commands a most extensive view over the country, to the Wrekin in Shropshire, which is said to be thirty miles distant, and the black mountains in Wales, fifty miles: Malvern-hills and the city of Worcester; the towns of Kidderminster, Stourbridge, &c. The last Prince of Wales caused a lofty Ionic column of stone to be fixed at the top of a large lawn adjoining, which looks down directly on the house.

Indeed this part of the country abounds with fine seats of the nobility and gentry; particularly Lord Foley, at Whitley Court, five miles from Bewdley, it is a handsome seat, and well furnished. It is situated in a large park, and the chapel built by the late lord is esteemed a very curious piece of architecture.

Hertlebury Castle, is a neat, uniform and elegant structure, seated in a beautiful part of the county, with very extensive views. The offices and gardens are well laid out, and the whole forms a very compleat and pleasing retreat.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

IS bounded on the east by Gloucestershire, on the south by Monmouthshire, on the west by Brecknockshire, and Radnorshire, and on the north by Worcestershire and Shropshire. Its form is almost circular, and contains thirty-five miles from north to south, thirty from east to west, and an hundred and eight miles in circumference; it is computed to contain eight hundred and twenty square miles.

The air of this county is generally allowed to be good, as an instance of it, it is reported, that when King James the first, took a progress into these parts, and was entertained by Serjeant Hoskins, the Serjeant, to shew how healthful and long-lived the inhabitants were, procured ten old men and women born here, to dance the morrice before them, whose years added together made one thousand; and they have likewise a proverb, viz.

Blessed is the eye

That is between the Severn and the Wye.

Which is thought to allude to the pleasantness, healthfulness, and security of this tract: the soil is

T t

very

very fruitful ; it abounds with corn and pasture, wool, water and wood ; Lempster bread and wool are equally famous ; Weobley ale makes their barley commended ; and their cyder, the general drink of the county, gives preference to none, except the Southam cyder of Devonshire. Great quantities of apple-trees thrive here, especially red-streaks, better than in any other county, the hedges are full of them.

We enter this county at Ross, by the direct road from London to Hereford, which passes through Gloucester.

Ross is one hundred and nineteen miles from London ; it was made a borough by King Henry III. It is famous for cyder, a great manufacture of iron ware, and its trade on the river Wye. It is ancient and well inhabited, consisting chiefly of two streets, each about half a mile long, that cross one another in the middle ; the church is handsome, and here are two charity schools, one for thirty boys, the other for twenty girls, who are taught and clothed by subscription.

On the other side of the river is

Wilton, where was anciently a castle, from whence many families of the name of Grey, have had their origin. This part of the country, on the river Wye, from hence to Monmouth, is exceedingly pleasant and agreeable.

A little higher up, on this river, is *Brockhampton*, near which is

Cappellar Hill, where formerly was a large squarish camp, called Wobury, double trenched, and near half a mile long, but narrow.

At Eaton Wall upon the Wye, is a camp of about thirty or forty acres, the work single.

Marcle Hill, in the year 1575, after shaking and roaring for some time, to the great terror and astonishment

nishment of the neighbouring inhabitants, began to move about six o'clock on Sunday evening, and continued moving till two o'clock on Monday morning, it then stood still and moved no more. It carried along with it the trees that grew upon it, and the sheep-folds and flocks of sheep grazing on it. In the place from whence it removed, it left a gap, of four hundred feet wide, and three hundred and twenty feet long. The whole spot whereon the hill stood contained about twenty acres. It overthrew Kynaston chapel that stood in its way, and removed an yew-tree growing in the chapel yard, from the west to the east, throwing down with violence, and over-turning the causeways, trees and houses that stood in the way of its progress.

At *Dinder*, about a mile from Hereford, is another Roman camp, called Oyster-hill, supposed by some etimologists to have taken its name from Ostorius Capulus, who was the Roman General of the army.

We find nothing more remarkable between Ross and

Hereford, which is situated on the river Wye, an hundred and thirty-two miles and an half from London; it is encompassed with rivers on all sides but the east; it was called by the Britons *Trefawith*, from the number of beach-trees which grew there in great plenty, the Saxons changed the name to *Fernler*, from the quantity of fern growing on the hills there, and afterwards *Hereford*, which implies a ford for an army, from its situation on the borders of the river.

This city is conjectured to have sprung up in the Saxon heptarchy, and to have began to flourish in the time of Edward the Elder; but what seems to have given it its greatest rise, was the murder of King Ethelbert by Offa, King of the Mercians; Ethelbert was King of the East Angles, and greatly beloved

beloved for his manly virtues; and Elfrida, daughter of Offa, and Quenreda, his consort, was proposed to Ethelbert as a wife; that prince accordingly went with a great retinue to the Mercian court at South-town, now called Sutton Walls, but Quenreda envying the pomp and splendor of Ethelbert, instigated her husband to deprive him of his life, and Guymbert, a favourite domestic of King Ethelbert's father, for the sake of the reward, went to that prince's apartment, and told him, that Offa expected him in private, and in his way to Offa was basely murdered by Guymbert and his accomplices. They conveyed his body to Marden; but afterwards, Offa, conscious of the wicked act he had caused to be done, removed the corpse and interred it near the monastery of Hereford, but the particular spot is not to be ascertained, his monument being destroyed by the Welch, under a rebellious Earl of Mercia, who also plundered the city, and robbed the ecclesiastics. Great sums of money were sent to this shrine by the West Saxon and Mercian Kings, and a stately and elegant church was built, in memory of this martyred prince, and soon after appointed an episcopal see.

The tower at the west end is said to have been built by Gilbert de Bruce, as he is represented in this cathedral holding a model of a tower in his hand, not unlike the abovesaid tower. The cathedral was destroyed by the Welch in 1066, and, as some say, rebuilt in the reign of the Conqueror, or, according to others, in that of the reign of Henry I. In the time of the civil wars, in 1645, it did not escape the Scotch army; they also plundered the library, and took away several valuable manuscripts; but one Silas Taylor, a captain of the parliament army, and a lover of antiquities, preserved them from being destroyed.

The

The cathedral is a beautiful magnificent structure, with many monuments, effigies and inscriptions of their prelates and others. In the north wing the shrine of Cantilupe, the great miracle monger in the west of England, was deposited; which wing was built by himself, and on the wall his picture is painted. All round are the marks of hooks, where the banners, lamps, reliques and the like presents were hung up. The riches of this place were doubtless very considerable; for it is well guarded against the assaults of thieves. The shrine is of stone, carved round with knights in armour.

The church, erected by Bishop Athelstan, is very old and stately. The spire is not high, but handsome; and there is a fine tower at the west end. The roof, aisles and chapel have been added to the more ancient part by successive bishops, as also the tower, cloisters, &c. The choir, though plain, is handsome, and there is a very good organ. Adjoining to the church is a college for twelve vicars and the chorister, who lead an academical life.

The chapter-house, which was very beautiful, was destroyed in the civil wars; about four windows are left standing; and the springings of the stone arches between are of fine rib-work, which composed the roof, of that sort of architecture where-with King's College Chapel was built. Two windows were pulled down by Bishop Bisse, which he used in fitting up the episcopal palace. Under the windows, in every compartment, was painted a King, Bishop, Saint, Virgin, or the like; some of which are distinct enough, though so long exposed to the weather. Here are a great number of Bishops, and many valuable brasses and tombs.

There is a very grand room built within these few years, for the meeting of the sons of the clergy. The church-yard is large and handsome, being the
only

only one in the city. The deanry stands on the east side of the church, and is a good building; the chancellor's house, and one or two more belonging to the dignitaries, are neat modern structures.

Between the cathedral and palace is a most venerable pile, built and roofed with stone, consisting of two chapels, one above the other; the upper dedicated to St. Magdalen; the lower, which is some steps under ground, to St. Catharine.

The city is governed by a mayor, recorder and common-council. There are also peculiar privileges for companies, who have separate halls, and power of making bye-laws for the benefit of their trade. This city sends two members to parliament.

The castle was a noble structure, erected by one of the Edwards, before the reign of William I. strongly walled and ditched. There is a very lofty artificial keep, having a Well faced with good stone: and by the side of the ditch a spring, consecrated to St. Ethelbert, with an old stone arch. The castle-green is now converted into a good walk, and is very pleasant.

The ruins of the monastery of Black Friars, are still to be seen without the walls, and a pretty stone cross entire; round which the cloisters were originally built, as now the cloisters of the cathedral inclose another such. The crosses were in the nature of a pulpit, whence a monk preached to the people in the open air, as now practiced in the cloisters of some colleges in the Universities once a year.

Hereford, though a large and populous city, may yet be said to be old, mean built, and very dirty, lying low, on the bank of the Wye, which sometimes incommodes them very much, by the violent freshes that come down from the mountains of

of Wales: for all the rivers of this county, except the Diffra Doe, come out of Wales.

One thing remarkable is, that the college still retains its foundation laws, and the residentiaries are obliged to celibacy; but otherwise they live a very happy easy and contented life; being furnished upon the foot of the foundation, besides their ecclesiastical stipends.

In the beginning of the year 1738, they began to pull down the old Gothic chapel belonging to the Bishop's palace at Hereford, in order to erect a pile in a politer taste, for the public service. The demolished chapel was said to be as old as the Norman invasion.

There is a remarkable story of the removal of two great stones at Sutton, which has somewhat the air of improbability; but as Bishop Gibson has mentioned it as a fact in his continuation of Camden, and the inhabitants in those parts confirm it, we shall relate it.

In a common meadow, called the *Wergins*, were placed two large stones for a water-mark; one erected upright, the other laid athwart. In the civil wars, about the year 1652, they removed to about twelve score paces, and nobody knew how; which gave occasion to a vulgar notion, that they were carried thither by an infernal power. They were afterwards set in their places again; and one of them was so extremely heavy, that it required nine yoke of oxen to draw it.

Near Hereford, is

Kercbester, formerly the Roman Ariconium, out of whose ruins Hereford sprung. It stands upon a little brook called the Ine; the name of Ariconium appears to be retained at this day, in *Archenfield*, though nothing remains of its former splendor, but a piece of temple probably, with a niche, which is five feet high, and three broad within,
built

built of brick, stone and indissoluble mortar. There are many large foundations near it. A very fine Mosaic floor, a few years ago, was found entire, which was soon torn to pieces by the ignorant country people. A bath was here founded by Sir John Hoskins, about seven feet square, the pipes of lead entire: those of brick were a foot long, three inches square, let artificially into one another: over these, I suppose, was a pavement. In another place is an hollow, where burnt wheat has been taken up. All round the city you may easily trace the walls, some stones being left every where, though overgrown by hedges and trees. The situation of the place is a gentle eminence, of a squarish form; the earth black and rich, overgrown with brambles, oak-trees, full of stones, foundations, and cavities, where they have been digging, and found many coins, &c. Colonel Dantrey has paved a cellar with square bricks dug up here. The late Earl of Coningsby adorned the floor of his evidence room with them.

At the summit of *Aredon-hill*, which over-looks this city from the north, is a vast camp, with works altogether inaccessible; it commands an extensive prospect as far as St. Michael's Mount in Monmouthshire, crowned with two tops, and much frequented by the Romish bigots, who believe this holy hill was sent thither by St. Patrick, out of Ireland, and that it works wonders in several kingdoms.

South-west of Hereford, is

The *Golden Vale*, with the river Dore running through the midst of it. The richness and fertility of this soil, and its agreeable clothing in spring, with an abundance of yellow flowers, has given it the title of the Golden Vale, though the Britons called it Duffrin-Dore.

From

From Gloucester is another road, which leads to *Ledbury*, one hundred and twenty-two miles and an half from London; it is a fine well built market town, situate near the south end of the Malvern-hills, in rich clay grounds. It is mostly inhabited by clothiers. Here is a well endowed hospital for the poor, and has a charity-school for twenty-three poor children.

We have been favoured with the following particulars from a gentleman of *Ledbury*, which we shall insert in his own words:

“The church belonging to this parish, is a very large ancient Gothic structure. It is built somewhat in the form of a cathedral, except the tower and the spire, which is exceeding high and tapering upwards, and divided from the body of the church by a narrow passage. The inside of the church is very large, and here are a number of ancient stone monuments and brass inscriptions. The chancel is spacious, and in it is a monument of stone, of St. Catharine. On it is the effigy of a woman, greatly defaced by time, so that none of the features are at present to be perceived; at the east end of the church is a handsome monument, or rather monuments, of the ancient family of the Bidulphs; there are several figures in marble; the whole railed round with neat iron-work, part of which is gilt. Not far distant is another monument to the memory of Capt. Skinner, of whom there is a well finished marble bust, with an inscription underneath. This gentleman built a handsome gallery in this church.

“There are three markets in this town, the first and principal one is that for corn, and which is an exceeding good one, over which is a grainary, supported by noble pillars of English oak. It was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The se-

cond is a butter-market, and the third an inferior market for grain for cattle, viz. peas, beans, &c.

“ Here is a particular charity annually distributed on a day kept in commemoration of St. Catharine, before mentioned. A quantity of bread is given by the church-wardens to all such who are in need of it and request it. This donation was left by the above lady, and is still called St. Catharine’s Dole or Gift; and was formerly attended with very whimsical circumstances, which the youth of the town indulged themselves in, of obliging as many as they could meet with, to come and receive it, by blows.

“ North of the town is St. Catharine’s Acre, &c. which estate is held by the owner’s compliance with the above donation.

“ About four miles east from Ledbury, and one mile west from Little Malvern, is an exceeding high hill, the highest of all the Malvern-hills, called Herefordshire Beacon, it is amazingly steep, and difficult to ascend to the summit, which gained, it fully repays the labour, by a most delightful and extensive prospect; the top of the beacon, at a moderate computation, is fifty yards wide. In ascending this hill, near the top, you meet with three intrenchments, supposed to have been flung up by the Britons to secure themselves from the ravages of the Roman invaders. The intrenchments are about twenty feet higher than each other, the uppermost appears to have only a breast-work now remaining.

“ The descent of this hill, towards Gloucestershire, is more gradual and easy, and of a greater width than that towards Ledbury, it being near three quarters of a mile, gently sloping towards the south, with the entrenchment continuing for a long way, till you meet with a cave, called by the inhabitants *Clutter’s Cave*, or rather *Clothier’s Cave*, an
ancient.

ancient Briton. The vulgar notion of the generality of the people who reside hereabouts is, that antiently a *cruel* Giant dwelt there, who continually made depredations into Herefordshire, and made free with the farmers cattle, &c. though at present only harmless sheep take shelter where this barbarous monster is supposed to have often fed upon their innocent flesh.

“ However, it may very reasonably be supposed, that this monster was no other than some tyrannical king, or lord, who was continually oppressing his subjects or his vassals.

“ From Clutter’s cave, in the way back to Ledbury, is a road called Ridgeway, which passes over a waste, which, in my opinion is the antient British road to and from the intrenchment.

“ I have only troubled you with these few remarks and humble suppositions, in hopes that some person more versed in antiquity than myself, may give a further and more learned explanation.

P. H.”

Upon a waste near Colwal, no great distance from Ledbury, as a countryman was digging a ditch about his cottage, he found a coronet of gold set with diamonds, it was of a size large enough to be drawn over the arm with a sleeve, the stones of it are said to have been so valuable, as to be sold by a jeweller for fifteen hundred pounds.

North of Ledbury, is

Bromyard or *Bramyard*, an hundred and twenty-five miles from London, the direct road to which is through Worcester. The country about Bromyard is full of orchards, chiefly stocked with apple trees, which, in the fruit season, affords a most delightful prospect. This town lies nearly equidistant between the cities of Hereford and Worcester.

From

From Bromyard, the road runs westerly to *Leominster*, or *Lemster*, an hundred and thirty-seven miles from London; it is a large market town, pleasantly situated, and has several bridges over the river Lug; it is a great thoroughfare, and governed by a high steward, a bailiff, a recorder, twelve capital burgessees, &c. and returns two members to parliament.

This town is famous for the fine wool which the sheep in the adjacent meadows produce, called for distinction *Lemster wool*, and by the inhabitants *Lemster ore*, meaning that this valuable article is; as it were, a gold mine, by which the town is enriched; the wheat and barley are also so excellent in these parts, that *Lemster bread* and *Weobly ale* are become a proverbial saying. The rivers which run through this town, with a very swift current, are of great use to the inhabitants, by driving their mills and other machinery necessary in the various branches of their trade in wool, hat-making, leather, &c.

The church, which was a large, dark and very old building, has been in a manner rebuilt, and is now very beautiful. On the north side of the church was a considerable priory, two aisles of which now belong to the church, and two others of more light-some work have been added. There are some poor remains of this priory, chiefly a little chapel which probably belonged to the Prior's family: underneath it runs a pretty rivulet, which used to grind his corn, now converted to a fulling-mill. Near it are very large ponds for fish, which used to furnish the monks on fasting days. There was a fine gate-house pulled down, not many years ago, near the Ambrey or Almry-close, where they gave their scraps away to the poor. The mayor has a long black rod to walk with, tipped with silver.

In

In this town there is an alms-house, founded by the widow of a man who gave away the best part of his effects in his life time. In a niche over the entrance, is his figure, holding up an hatchet, with this inscription under:

Let him that gives his goods before he's dead,
Take this hatchet, and cut off his head.

In the road from Lemster to Hereford, which is ten miles distant from that town, is

Hampton Court, a handsome seat, built by Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster, afterwards King Henry IV. in the form of a castle, situated in a valley, upon a rapid river, under a coverture of *Brinmaur*. The gardens are very pleasant, terminated by vast woods, covering all the sloping side of the hill. There is a plentiful supply of water on all sides of the house, for fountains, basons and canals.

The park is very fine, eight miles in circumference, and contains a numerous herd of deer. There is a pool three quarters of a mile long, very broad, and inclosed between two great woods, the dam which forms it, and is made over a valley, cost eight hundred pounds, and was finished in a fortnight, by two hundred hands. A new river is cut quite through the park, the channel of which, for a long way together is hewn out of the rock; this serves to enrich large tracts of land which before were barren.

This park commands most extensive prospects on one side reaching into Wiltshire, on the other, over the Welch mountains: the lawns, groves, canals, hills, plains, and plantations, are exceedingly beautiful, and laid out with great judgment. The house is supplied with all sorts of conveniences and necessities, from the warrens, decoys, sheep-

sheep-walks, pastures for cattle, &c. on this spot, without having recourse to a market.

Within the house are two new stone stair-cases, after a geometrical method. The record-room is on the top of a tower, arched with stone, paved with Roman brick, and has an iron door. The windows of the chapel are well painted, and there are some statues of the Coningsbys; the apartments are adorned with excellent family pictures, and other paintings, by Holbein, Dobson, Vandyke, Sir Peter Leley, &c. Here is an original painting of the founder, King Henry IV. of Queen Elizabeth, the Duchess of Portsmouth, &c.

This seat was in the possession of the late Earl of Coningsby, who from an Irish peer was made an English one by King George the first; that Lord having no son, his daughter was created by the same Prince in the life-time of her father, Baroness and Viscountess Coningsby, of Hampton-Court, in order that the descendants might be entitled to a peerage. She married Sir Michael Newton, Baronet, and a Knight of the Bath, but left no issue. The estate devolved to her sister.

The neighbouring hill, called

Brynmaur, or the Great hill, is a steep ascent, covered on the top with wood, from whence is a most extensive prospect.

Eleven miles from Hereford, is

Weobley, or *Webley*, which is likewise a considerable town for the cloathing trade, ale, &c. It suffered greatly by a fire some years ago. It had a castle in the reign of King Stephen, which was fortified against him by the partizans of the Empress Maud, but reduced by his forces. Here are two or three other small towns, as *Pembridge*, *Kyneton*, &c. of no note, and of which we can find nothing remarkable.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

SHROPSHIRE.

THIS County, which is likewise called *Salop*, is bounded on the east by Staffordshire, on the north by Cheshire, on the south by Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Radnorshire; and on the west by Montgomery and Denbighshires in Wales. It is divided into two parts, by the river Severn, which rises in Plimlimmon-hills in Montgomeryshire.

This is esteemed the biggest of all the inland counties, and computed to be forty miles in length, and thirty-three in breadth, the area eleven hundred and six square miles. The river Tafidiang, or Sufidiang, bounds it on the south, this river rises in the mountains of Radnorshire, and enters this county at the village of Ruttin Ruggantin, after which it is joined by the Chun, near Bridge Castle. The other division, viz. the tract on this side the Severn, is divided into two parts by the river Tern, which flows from north to south, and has its name from a large pool in Staffordshire, one of which we call Ternes, where it begins. Both these rivers receive several smaller ones, and all abound with trouts, pikes, lampries, grailing, carp, eels, &c.

The air of this county is very healthy, as it generally is in such as are mountainous, and hilly:

the

the soil, which is in many parts of a reddish clay, is various as in other places; the south and west parts, which are the most hilly, not being altogether so fruitful as the low grounds, of which this county has its share. It produces plenty of wheat, barley and other grain, besides inexhaustible pits of coal, of which Dr. Fuller mentions a river or fresh water coal, dug out of this county. By the Severn side are rich large meadows, that yield abundance of grafs and hay for cattle, which are chiefly fed on the upland pastures; and the hilly country on the borders of Wales, is excellent sheep-pasture. Here are also mines of copper, lead, iron, stone, and lime-stone. Over most of the coal-pits or mines, in this county, especially those in Brosely, Bentley, Pitchford, lies a stratum or layer of a blackish rock, or stone, of some thickness, which is porous, and contains great quantities of bituminous matter. This stone, being brought to the work-house, is ground small by horse-mills, such as are used for grinding flints to make glass of; the powder is thrown into great coppers of water, where, by boiling, the bituminous matter is separated from the stony or gritty part, this last sinking to the bottom, the other swimming at the top of the water. This bituminous substance being gathered together, and evaporated, becomes of the consistence of pitch, and this by means of an oil, distilled from the same stone, and mixed therewith, becomes thinner, or like tar. These substances are found to exceed common pitch and tar, as they do not crack, but keep always black and soft, by which they may be serviceable to prevent the worms from hurting ships pitched therewith. The oil is used by some for oil petre, or turpentine, and is esteemed serviceable in aches, pains, &c.

The

The county of Salop sends twelve members to parliament, viz. two knights for the shire, two burgeses for Shrewsbury, and two each for Burges, alias Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Wenlock and Bishop's Castle.

This county (as a frontier between the Welch and English) has had more castles built in it than any other county in England, in so much, that *Fuller* observes, it seems to be parted from Wales with a continual wall of castles; and it is said by *Speed*, that no less than thirty-two castles have been built within this shire, besides the fortified towns. *Camden* informs us, these castles were of great use in checking the excursions of their Welch neighbours; from whence the borders of it, towards Wales, were, in the Saxon language, termed the Marches, being the limits between the two nations. Some of the nobility of this county were stiled Lords of the Marches, and these Lords, within the bounds of their jurisdiction, acted with a sort of palatinate authority, which approached nearer to sovereign than any other deputed power. They held courts of justice to determine controversies among their neighbours, and enjoyed several great privileges and immunities. The King's writs were not suffered to run here in some causes; but if any dispute arose concerning the right or extent of lordship, it was only determinable in the King's Courts of Justice. In ancient writings they were stiled, *Marchiones de Marchia Wallia*, i. e. Marquises of the Marches of Wales, as appears by the Red Book in the Exchequer, where it is said, that at the coronation of Queen Eleanor, consort to King Henry III. these Marquises or Lords Marches of Wales, viz. John Fitz Alane, Ralph de Mortimer, John de Monmouth, and Walter de Clifford, in behalf of the Marches, did claim in their right to provide silver spears, and bring them to support

the square canopy of purple silk at the coronation of the Kings and Queens of England; but peaceful times since the reduction of Wales, and its being united to the crown of England and the royal authority, have by degrees abolished the private rights of these lords, which they exercised with great insolence over the inhabitants of the marshes, and the right of supporting the coronation canopy is now claimed and used only by the wardens of the Cinque ports.

From Kidderminster the road enters this county at Alam bridge, and leads us to *Bridgenorth*, *Bruges*, or *Brugmorse*, one hundred and thirty-nine miles from London. It is said to have been anciently called only Bridge, but that the word North has been added of late years, from the building of some bridge over the Severn, to the south of it; however, the original name is said to be ancients than that of England, which was given to it by Egbert in 884, which shews this town to be very ancient. It is situated on the bank of the Severn, which river flows in among the rocks here with a very great fall. The town is large and divided by the Severn into two parts, the upper and the lower; over the river is a fair stone bridge of seven arches, which hath a gate and gatehouse. Its situation is pleasant; its air healthy, the prospect delightful and commodious for trade. It was formerly fortified with walls and a castle, now in ruins; the area in the last, is converted into a bowling-green. The upper town stands on a hill, on an ascent of sixty yards from the west bank of the river. Many of the houses are founded upon a rock, and most of their cellars are caves hewn out of it. Here were formerly several religious houses, but now only two churches. St. Mary Magdalen, an ancient building, made a free chapel, and exempted from episcopal jurisdiction, by King John. St. Leonard, which

which was so greatly damaged by fire, in the civil wars between Charles I. and his parliament, that the inhabitants were obliged since to rebuild it. An hollow way is cut through the rock, from the upper town to the bridge, of the depth of twenty feet, and round the castle is a walk, kept in good order, which commands a prospect of the low town, the river, and the common, called *Morfe*, where the races are kept. The walk on *Morfe* affords also a delightful prospect.

This town carries on a great trade in a number of articles; but it is chiefly noted for gun-makers, and for its stocking manufactory. It had several charters from King Henry II. and King John, with many great privileges, for which it may vie with most corporations in England. It is free from paying postage, toll and customs to any other towns, and receives from several. It is governed by a charter granted by King John; by two Bailiffs, chosen annually, twenty-four Aldermen, forty-eight Common Council-men, a Recorder, &c. &c. The town is supplied with water, by an engine, which forces it out of the Severn to a reservoir on the top of Castle Hill, and from thence is distributed to all parts of the town. The free school here for the sons of burgesses, is as ancient as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but is only endowed with twenty-four pounds per annum.

There is another road to Bridgenorth through Birmingham and Dudley, which is only one hundred and thirty-five miles from London, and is the direct road to Shrewsbury. Two miles on the right, beyond Cressedge, between Bridgenorth and Shrewsbury, is High Escall Park, the seat of the Earl of Bradford.

Shrewsbury, one hundred and fifty-six miles from London, is the metropolis of the county, and delightfully situated on the Severn. It is supposed to have

have been built out of the ruins of the ancient neighbouring city *Uriconium*, now called *Wroxeter*; the Saxons called this town *Scrobbes-berig*, because the hill it stands upon was covered with shrubs. The Britons called it *Penguerne*, i. e. a Brow of Alders; and the Normans, *Scropesbery*, *Stoppesbury* and *Salop*. In the time of the Normans, it had two hundred and fifty-two townsmen, of whom twelve were bound to keep guard, when the Kings of England came hither, and as many to attend them in hunting. William the Conqueror granted it to Roger de Montgomery, who built a castle here, and other ways greatly improved it; and in the year 1083, founded and endowed a Benedictine abbey, called St. Giles's, or the Holy Cross, famous for being the repository of Winifred's body. Robert, when he revolted from Henry I. inclosed it with walls on that side where the Severn leaves it exposed to an enemy. When Domesday book was made, there was a custom in this town, "That howsoever a woman married, if a widow, she should pay to the King twenty shillings, but if a virgin ten shillings," which custom is at present abolished.

Besides the abovementioned convent, other churches were erected here; and to pass by the monasteries of the Dominican, Franciscan, and Augustine friars, founded by the Charltons, Jennevis, and Staffords, there were two collegiate churches, viz. St. Chad's, with a Dean and ten Prebendaries; and St. Mary's, with a Dean and nine Minor Prebendaries.

Part of this town was burnt by the Welch under their Prince Leoline, and near it the famous battle was fought between Henry Hotspur and Henry IV. of England, in which, through the rashness of the former, the King came off victorious, having killed the hot-headed youth, and routed his army. This bloody engagement was fought on the eve of St. Mary

Mary Magdalen, A. D. 1403, at a place called *Battlefield*, which name it retains to this present hour.

On the fifteenth of April, in the year 1551, that dreadful distemper broke out at this town, called the *sweating sickness*, which spread itself over the whole kingdom, and some parts abroad. It destroyed great numbers of people, especially the middle-aged, of whom but few escaped its mortal effects.

When King Charles I. set up his standard at Nottingham, he met with but little encouragement; he therefore removed to this town, to which he had been invited by the gentry of the town and country, and indeed he was so affectionately received here, and met with so much assistance, that he presently recruited his army, and took the field before the parliament, advanced towards them, and gave them battle at Edgehill, near Banbury.

Shrewsbury is called by Mr. Camden a city, and indeed it very well deserves that appellation, but it is said that King Charles II. when he offered to erect this town into a city; the townsmen refused it, chusing rather to remain in their present corporate state, than accept of that honour, valuing themselves, as they said, upon Shrewsbury's being the first town in England. From this refusal, the inhabitants were afterwards called "The Proud Salopians."

This town is incorporated by the name of Mayor, Aldermen and Burgessees. Here are no less than twelve incorporated companies, who repair in their formalities, on the second Monday after Whitsuntide every year, to a place called Kingsland, on the south side of the town, but on the opposite bank of the river, where they have the honour of entertaining the Mayor and corporation at their particular bowers or arbors, erected for the purpose, and distinguished by some mottos or devices suitable to their several arts and crafts. The streets are large,
and

and the houses well built, and the town being full of gentry, there are assemblies and balls all the year round, it being a town which vies with any other in England for mirth and gallantry, and a number of gentlemens coaches are constantly to be seen here. The walks adjacent to the town are great ornaments to it, especially that delightful one called the Quarry, from stones having been dug there formerly, but since converted into one of the finest walks in England for beauty and extent. It takes in at least twenty acres of ground on the south and south-west sides of the town, betwixt its walls and the Severn. It is shaded on each side with delightful rows of lime-trees, and adorned with seats and alcoves, judiciously dropped for a view of the river and adjacent country; so that its beauty and agreeableness makes it deserve rather the name of *Shrewsbury Mall* than the *Quarry*.

On the Welch bridge, across the Severn, is a very noble gate, and over the arch of it is a statue of the great Llewellyn, the idol of the Welch, and the last Prince of Wales; this being the place where the ancient Princes of Powis Land, or North Wales, kept their residence. The castle in this town is not in so ruinous a state as most of the old castles in this kingdom, and at the bottom of the river, when the water is low, is to be seen the remains of a stone bridge. The great Roman road is visible in this neighbourhood, at

Wroxeter, a small distance from Shrewsbury. It was the ancient *Uriconium*; the remains of the Roman fortifications are still visible, they are called the *Old Works of Wroxeter*, and are in the middle about twenty feet high, and one hundred in length. It stands on the Severn, near its conjunction with the *Terne*. The author of the additions to *Camden* tells us, that this place, which some reckon the metropolis, others the second city of the *Cornavii*,
was

was three miles in compass, surrounded with a wall founded for most part of pebble-stones, which was three yards thick, and had a vast trench round it. The name is rationally enough derived from *Wreaken-Ceaster*, or the City near the *Wreken*. Coins are often ploughed up here, called Dinders, which prove its antiquity, though they are for the most part illegible. Here is supposed antiently to have been a castle, with a suditory or sweating-house for the Roman soldiers. Within a mile of this village is

Wrekin-bill, by some called *Gilbert's bill*, the highest ground in all the county. It ascends gradually, for a great length, being well shaded with trees on the summit, and affords a delightful prospect over the country. The toast in these parts, *To all friends round the Wrekin*, is as common as that to *those round St. Paul's*, at London, &c.

Bilderwas, or *Bulduldewas Abbey*, lies about a mile south-east of the foot of the mountain, and close to the river Severn, over which there is a bridge, said by the inhabitants to have belonged to, or to have been built for the convenience of this abbey; but its appearance does not speak it of that antiquity.

This house was founded in the year 1135, by Roger, Bishop of Chester, for monks of the order of Savigny, united afterwards to the Cistercians. It was dedicated as it is said, to St. Mary and St. Chad. The foundation was confirmed by King Stephen, in the year 1139. It had afterwards many noble benefactions and donations, several of them were confirmed by the charter of King Richard the first, in the year 1189, being the first year of his reign: and Henry the second, by his charter to Randolph, Abbot of this place, subjected the abbey

bey of St. Mary's Dublin, to the government of the Abbots of Bilderwas.

Great part of the walls of the church are now standing, which shew it was once a magnificent building. The arches of the aisles are supported by columns of a remarkable thickness.

Hawkestone, a fine seat belonging to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. The house being situated low, is not seen from the road, though it is built in very good taste: above the house is a hill which fronts the Wrekin, the rocks having been cut away and formed into bastions and regular Gothic buildings, makes it extremely beautiful: the vineyard also here is finely planed in terraces; and over looks the country beyond Shrewsbury. It being defended on every side, and open only to the south, the grapes generally ripen here very soon.

Boscobel-house, or *White Ladies*, is about a mile from Shrewsbury, in a large wood: this place is famous for the royal oak, and here the Pendrils lived, who preserved King Charles II. after Worcester battle. The floor of the garret, which is a Popish chapel, (formerly a nunnery in the possession of the family of Cooksey) being matted, prevented any suspicion of a little cavity with a trap-door over the stair-case where the King was hid. His bed was artfully placed behind some wainscot and shut up very close. A descendant of the Cookseys still keeps the gloves and garters which his Majesty left behind him. The chapel is still standing, and has some painted saints upon the wall at one end.

Not far from the house stood the royal oak, into which the King and Colonel Carlos climbed, by means of the hen-roost ladder, when they thought it was no longer safe to stay in the house, the family reaching them victuals with the nut-hook. The story is related as follows; whilst the
King

The tree is now inclosed within a brick-wall, the inside whereof is covered with laurel. The oak is in the middle, almost cut away by travellers, whose curiosity leads them to see it. Close by its side grows a thriving young plant from one of its acorns.

Over the door of the inclosure is a Latin inscription, cut in marble ; which is thus translated :

The OAK beloved by Jove.

The fisher-men in these parts have a pretty device to catch fish, which is called a Coracle, wherein one man being seated, will row himself very
Y y swiftly

swiftly with one hand, whilst with the other he manages his net, angle, or other fishing tackle. It is of a form almost oval, made of split sally twigs interwoven, (round at the bottom) and that part which is next to the water, is covered with a horse's hide. It is about five feet long and three broad, and so light that they carry it out and home on their backs.

East of Shrewsbury, is

New Port, a market town, situate on the borders of Staffordshire, near the Watling-street, an hundred and forty miles from London. This town boasts of a handsome foundation for a school, not to be excelled by any other in the kingdom: it was founded by William Adams, Esq. a Haberdasher of London, and endowed by him to the value of seven thousand pounds, he likewise gave a library, with a house both for the master and usher, and sixty pounds a year to the former, and thirty for the latter, with a garden of an acre to each house, and two acres for the boys to play in. The school is seventy feet long and twenty-two feet wide, and the same in height. Near the school he also built an alms-house, and gave five hundred and fifty pounds towards building the town-house. The master is presented by the Haberdashers Company of London, whose place is now said to be worth an hundred pounds a year. Over the school-door is this districh:

Scripsisti hæredem patriam, tibi quæ dedit ortum :
Scriberis ergo tuæ jure pater patriæ.

That is

Thy country is thy heir; and therefore we
Justly esteem thy country's parent thee.

Here is also an English free-school, erected for all the children of the town: it is a very ancient foundation,

foundation, pretty large, and endowed with twenty pounds a year by a private gentleman, to which the crown has made an addition of five pounds a year for the encouragement of the teachers. Here was formerly a collegiate church, erected in the reign of King Henry VI. by Thomas Draper of this town. The facetious Tom Brown was born here, his father being a tanner therein.

In this part are the parishes of *Kinnardsey* and *Donnington*, of which Mr. *Plaxton* has given some natural observations in the *Philosophical Transactions*, (Numb. 310.) "At his induction into the parsonage of *Kinnardsey*, he found a great many aged people, and observed that every sixth soul was sixty years of age and upwards, and that some were eighty-five, and others ninety; this seemed surprizing to him, the town being surrounded with a large morass, overflowed in winter, and no coming into the parish any way upon arable land; the morasses, or moors, are of a large extent, and the parish so surrounded with them, for which reason the village was called *Kinnardsey*, or *Kinnards's Island*, *ei*, *ea*, *ey*, are all watry terminations; thus the next parish is called *Eytom*, i. e. the town upon the waters, *Edney*, or *Edwyney*, Edwin's Island, *Buttery* or *Butterey*, the island of Butter, being a large grazing tract of land, with some others of the like termination: all that vast morass was called the *Weald-moor*, or the *Wild-moor*, that is the woody moor. Mr. *Plaxton* was assured by the aged people, that all the wild moors had formerly been so far over-grown with elders, willows, fallies, thorns, &c. that the inhabitants commonly hung bells about the necks of their cattle, that they might the more easily find them.

About half a mile from the parish church, is a pretty farm called the

Wall

Wall, which Mr. *Plaxton* supposes to have been formerly a British fortification. It is encompassed by a morass, and raised up to a great height with sand, broken stones, gravel and rubbish; and is, as he measured it, above one thousand nine hundred yards in compass, and sixteen, eighteen and twenty yards in breadth. The country in those parts, he says, is very healthful, people living to a great age. In Donnington, Mr. *Plaxton* saw three healthful persons, viz. the husband, his wife, and his wife's brother, whose ages reckoned together, made two hundred and seventy-eight, and they lived some years after.

Near Wenlock was discovered a Burning-well, which broke out in 1711, it exhales a sulphurous steam or vapour, which takes fire like spirits of wine, or brandy: the people lay over it an iron cover, with a semicircular hole near one side of it, where the vapour being forced to exhale, it is set on fire, by approaching any lighted matter, and burns with that intenseness, that in less than two hours it will boil a large piece of beef, and meat may be broiled at the same without tasting of the sulphur, but as soon as the iron cover is removed, the flame is immediately extinguished, and becomes as cold as any spring-water.

Nor far distant from here is a little village, called

Pitchford, which gave name to an ancient family now extinct. It takes its derivation from a spring of pitchy water, upon which there floats a liquid sort of bitumen, though it be every day scummed off, which the inhabitants use instead of pitch.

North of Newport is *Drayton*, one hundred and fifty-three miles from London; it is situated on the borders of Staffordshire, and on Blore-Heath, a famous battle was fought between the houses of
York

York and Lancaster, wherein Nevil, Earl of Salisbury, with five thousand men only, beat Lord Audley with ten thousand men, after a most bloody engagement, which was very fatal to the gentry of Cheshire. A remarkable stone cross was erected upon the spot where Lord Audley was slain, and near this heath stands Oakley, a fine seat of Sir John Chetwood, Bart.

Another road from Newport leads to Whitchurch, one hundred and sixty one miles from London, a pleasant large and populous town on the borders of Cheshire. This town has a good market, and a great many gentry in it, many of which are Roman catholics. It is said, that when King Charles I. removed his standard from Nottingham to Shrewsbury, this town raised a whole regiment for his service.

It has a very good church, in which is the monument of the great John Talbot, first Earl of Shrewsbury; he was so renowned in the wars of France, that he was stiled the English *Achilles*, and no man in that country dared to encounter him single-handed; he had engraved on one side of his sword in rude Latin, *Sum Talboti*, I am Talbot; and on the reverse, *Pro Vincere Inimicos Meos*, to conquer my enemies; his epitaph is in Latin, expressing his name and titles in Latin, and that he dyed near Bourdeaux, the seventh of July, 1453.

From Shrewsbury, a road branches off to *Wem*, one hundred and sixty-six miles and an half from London, an ancient town near the head of the river Roden. It gave title of Baron to that obnoxious Judge, Sir George Jefferys, in the reign of King James the Second. Mr. Wycherly, the witty poet, was born here. Sir Thomas Adams, Draper, and Lord-Mayor of London, gave the house here, in which he was born, to be a free-school for the children of this town, and liberally endowed it.

A little

A little distance from this, upon a woody hill, or rather rock, anciently called Radcliffe, stood a castle upon a very high ground, called from the reddish stone Red Castle, and by the Normans, Castle Rouse, heretofore the seat of the Audley's, by the bounty of the-Empress Maud.

Scarce a mile from hence is a spot of ground where Camden says a small city once stood; the people of the neighbourhood, call it Bery, from Burgh, and they affirm it to have been very famous in King Arthur's time.

From Shrewsbury is another branch of the road to the north-west, which brings us to *Oswestry*, or *Oswaldestry*. It lies near Denbighshire, one hundred and seventy-one miles and an half from London, is a very ancient town, inclosed with a wall and ditch, and fortified with a small castle. It's original name was Maserfield, but received it's present denomination from Oswald, King of the Northumbrians, who was here slain in battle with Penda, the pagan King of the Mercians, and torn limb from limb with the utmost cruelty. The church of St. Oswald was called Blaneminster, and was once a monastery. It is governed by two bailiffs, burgesses, &c. and was anciently a borough.

Here is a good grammar school, an excellent charity-school for forty boys, besides girls, which has the best methods for exciting the emulation of the children in their learning; for twenty of the boys are set to strive against the like number for shoes, and the twenty who perform their task best, have their shoes first; then ten more are set against ten others, and so on, till they are all shod; so in the girl's school, a shift is put up for the best spinner, a head-dress for the best sempstress, a pair of stockings for the best knitter, a Bible for the best reader, and a copy-book for the best writer.

There

There is very little trade carried on in this town at present, though formerly it was famous for Welch cottons and flannels. Travellers who pass along this road, must not put any great dependence on the entertainment they shall meet with in Oswestry, for there is scarce a tolerable house in the town for their accommodation.

Quitting this part of the country, we shall descend to the south, and take notice of *Ludlow*, the road to which from London is through Worcester. It is one hundred and thirty-eight miles from the metropolis, and is situated upon a hill near the place where the river Teme joins the Corve, on the borders of Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Here are the remains of an ancient castle, first built extremely strong and beautiful, by Roger de Montgomery, who inclosed it with walls, about a mile in compass. King Stephen laid close siege to it; and here Henry, son of the King of Scots, being lifted up from his horse by a grappling hook, had like to have been drawn within the walls, if King Stephen himself had not come to his assistance, and with singular courage delivered him from that danger.

This town was incorporated by Edward IV. It has a power of trying and executing criminals distinct from the county, and is governed by two Bailiffs, twelve Aldermen, twenty-five Common-councilmen, &c. The town is divided into four wards, has seven gates in the walls, is well built and neat, but the ruinous state of the castle, and the abolishing of the court held there for the marches, has not been any advantage to it.

The situation of this castle is indeed beautiful, to which you are lead through a spacious street, by which you enter the town by an ascent to the top of the hill; it commands a most agreeable prospect of the surrounding country, which is pleasant, fertile, populous

populous, and agreeably diversified. It is the palace of the Prince of Wales in right of his principality, and nature seems to have left nothing wanting to make the situation fit for a royal palace. It stands in the north-west angle of the town, upon a rock; the battlements are of great height and thickness, with towers at convenient distances, that half within the walls of the town is succoured by a deep ditch; the other is founded on a solid rock. A chapel here has abundance of coats of arms upon the pannels, as has the hall, together with lances, spears, firelocks, and old armour.

But the plunder the inhabitants are daily making on the ancient materials of this castle, not a little contributes to its decay; as the fine courts, the royal apartments, halls and rooms of state, lie open, abandoned, and some of them falling down; for since the courts of the President and Marches are taken away, there is nothing that requires the attendance of any public persons, and that hoary sage that can devour the strongest fabrics, continues his depredations on this noble structure, so greatly famed for its elegance and antiquity.

There was formerly a fine lawn before the castle, which extended near two miles, but is now greatly inclosed; over several of the stable-doors are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, the Earls of Pembroke, and others. Samuel Butler, the author of that admired poem, *Hudibras*, wrote the first part of it in one of the apartments of the outer Gatehouse.

The church belonging to this town has a handsome tower, and a pleasant ring of six bells. The windows are adorned with painted glass, pretty entire, and there are some old monuments of the Lords, Presidents, &c. and an inscription on the north wall of the choir, relating to Prince Arthur, eldest brother to King Henry VIII. who died here, and whose bowels were deposited in this spot, though
his

his heart is said to have been since taken up in a leaden box.

In an eastern angle of the choir is a closet, anciently called the *Godhouse*, where the priests secured their consecrated utensils. The window is strongly bound on the outside. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence; and in the market-place is a conduit, on the top whereof is a long stone cross, bearing a niche, in which is the image of that Saint.

There is a private house on the west side of the church, which was originally a college; and without the town there was a rich priory. The Welch call this town *Llys Twysŏe*, i. e. the *Princes Court*.

From Ludlow the road strikes to the north-west, to

Bishops Castle, an hundred and fifty-two miles and an half from London, a small market town, but anciently a body corporate, it is situated on the river Clun, near Montgomeryshire, and has many privileges, and sends two members to parliament. It takes its name from its formerly having belonged to the Bishop of Hereford, in whose diocese it lies; but it was alienated from them and granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, by Queen Elizabeth. The corporation consists of a bailiff, recorder and fifteen aldermen.

Not far from this town, at the entrance into Montgomeryshire, is a noted place called *Bishops Mote*, where is an acre of ground surrounded with an entrenchment.

Between Ludlow and Bishops Castle, is a hill, called

Caer Caradock, so named because Caractacus, a renowned British Prince, encompassed it with a bulwark of stone about the year 53; and though

he defended it bravely against Ostorius and the Roman legions till they made a breach in the wall with rams-horns, the disarmed Britons were forced to betake themselves to the mountains: the King himself escaped by flight, but his wife, daughters and brethren were made prisoners: and the King having fled for refuge to Cartesmandura, Queen of the Brigantes, she treacherously delivered him to Ostorius, who carried him in chains to Rome, where, by his magnanimous address, he procured pardon from Claudius Cæsar, for himself and family. The defeat of Caractacus, and the taking of his strong camp and himself prisoner, was looked upon as so important an event, that the senate of Rome decreed Ostorius a triumph as a reward for so signal an instance of his merit.

The tokens of this battle are still to be seen near Laterden, where are two barrows, in which have been found burnt bones, and an urn. The trenches of the Roman camp at Caer Caradock are very deep, and yet the soil is a hard rock. The ramparts are walled, but now covered with earth. It is commonly called the *Gair*, being situate on the east point of a very steep hill, which is only accessible in the west part.

East of Ludlow, is a little town, called

Mortimers Clebury, so called from Hugh de Mortimer, who built a castle here, which King Henry II. caused immediately to be demolished, as a nursery of rebellion.

Adjoining to that town is

Clee-hill, on which are the remains of an ancient camp, and famous for producing the best pit coal. It has likewise some veins of iron.

A few miles distant from this is

Ribsford, the seat of the Earl of Powis, it is pleasantly surrounded with woods; the ends of the hills towards the river are generally rocks; and Blackston-hill.

ston-hill has a hermitage cut out of it, with a chapel and several apartments. Near this is a pretty rock upon the edge of the water, covered with oaks and many curious plants, &c.

Mr. Thomas Parr was a native of this county, he lived to the age of one hundred and fifty years, was tried for an illegitimate child when he was one hundred and twenty years old, it is supposed he would have lived many years longer, had not his place of abode and method of living been changed.

don't see a better way out of it, with a car-
pet and several apartments. Near this is a pretty
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The Thomas Parr was a native of this coun-
try, he lived to the age of one hundred and fifty
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changed.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

STAFFORDSHIRE

IS bounded on the east by Warwickshire, and Derbyshire; on the south by Worcestershire; on the west by Shropshire and Cheshire; which last joining Derbyshire on the north, where it ends in an obtuse angle, make the north border.

It is divided by the Trent into the north and south, or rather into the north-east and south-west parts; the former of which is again divided into the moor lands, which are the more northerly, mountainous parts, lying between the rivers Trent and Dove, from the three shire heads to Draycot in the moors; and the woodlands, which is the most southerly part of the country, from Draycot, to Winchmore, &c. It lies from south to north almost in form of a Rhombus, being broad in the middle, and narrow and contracted towards the ends. It is commonly reckoned forty miles in length, twenty-six in breadth, and an hundred and forty-one in compass. But *Templeman* gives seven miles more to the length, and six more to the breadth; so that according to him, the area takes up a thousand and six square miles, which others call eight hundred and ten thousand acres; in which are contained one city, eighteen market towns, five hundreds, one hundred and fifty parishes, and twenty-four thousand houses.

Its

Its air is generally good, and though there is a bog here and there, yet in most parts it is hilly, where the air is excellent, particularly all that part between Beach and Trentham, which is free from woods, mines, waters and bogs, either whereof is enough to render the air unwholesome; and the people here say, that they have three christenings to one burial.

This county is watered by the following rivers:

1. The great river Trent, the third river in England, which rising among the moor lands in the north-west side of the county, out of New-Pool, a spring in the grounds of Sir John Bowyer, Bart. and two other springs near Mole-cop and Norton-hay, runs almost through the middle of the shire to Derbyshire, being increased on the north side by many rivulets, which with the Sow, Eccleshal water and other streams that fall into them, abound with fish; and the Trent is famous for salmon.

2. The Dove rises in the most northern point of this county, and separates it with a great stream on the east side of it from Derbyshire, which it enters just as it falls into the Trent. It has a white clayish channel without any shelves of mud, which running through a lime-stone soil, is so enriched by it, says *Camden*, that in the very depth of winter the meadows on both sides look fresh and green, and if it overflows them in April, it makes them so fruitful, that the neighbouring inhabitants joyfully apply the following rhyme to it;

In April, Dove's flood
Is worth a King's good,

In the same sense as is commonly said in England of March dust, That a bushel of it is worth a King's ransom. But *Dr. Plot* ascribes this fertility to the
sheeps

sheeps dung that is washed down from the hills by the rains, and thrown upon the banks by a flood.

3. Tame (not that which joins the Isis) rises in the hundred of Serfden, where being joined with the Walsal water, it passes through Offton hundred into Warwickshire, and entering this county again at Draiton Bassett, runs by Tamworth, and along the borders of Offlow hundred, till it falls into the Trent, being increased in the way by that called the Black Brook, and other rivulets.

Besides its rivers, this county is plentifully supplied with water from its meres, ponds and lakes, as Ladford-pool, which contains about sixty acres, Cock-meer and Eccleshal-castle pools, New and Mare pools, with divers others, most of which have rivulets continually passing through and mixing with them, or are as constantly fed with springs, and plentifully stocked with fish, which perpetually moving the waters, keep them always free from that stagnation which is sure to corrupt the air.

Here are medicinal waters also of various kinds. Some mixed with Bitumen, some with salts, and others with sulphur. Of the bituminous kind in particular, are the springs near Berresford-house, called Warm-well, because in frost and snow it will smoak like a boiling pot; and another of the like nature at Hynts, near Mr. Floyer's house. Of the saline kind here are divers sorts, some of a stronger brine than the rest, as the brine pits at Chertley, which, though they don't afford so much salt as the Wiches in Cheshire, yet make as good white salt for all uses as any in England; others are of a weaker brine, as those about Epsom, Pensnet-close, and Lough, issuing out of a coal-mine in Blew-hill, in the parish of Leeke, which tinges the stones and earth it touches with the colour of rust. Of the sulphurous, which is properly the most medicinal kind of waters, is St. Erasmus's

Erasmus's well, at Dingeston, another near Codfallow, and a well at Willough-bridge park, which contains a most rectified sulphur; and though it is hardly visible in the water itself, yet being put into a glass, leaves a bright oiliness upon it, and with sublimate turns yellow. Of these sort of springs it is said, there are no less than sixty in this park, by which unaccountable cures have been performed. There are other waters not reducible to either of the former heads, which also do strange cures, as Salter's well near Newcastle under Line, which has the reputation of curing the King's-evil. Elder-well near Blim-hill, a good water to cure sore eyes: and a well called the Spa near Wolverhampton.

The moor lands of this county, which are mountainous, and therefore reckoned the most barren, produce a short but sweet grass, by which they bring up as fine large cattle as those of Lancashire; and the graziers say, that they will feed better and much more in the rich pastures and meadows that adorn the banks of the Dove, Trent, Blythe, Charnet, &c. all in this north part of the county. Dove-bank, or the banks of the Dove, is reckoned the best feeding ground in England for the reasons above mentioned, and by these rich pastures and meadows the great dairies are maintained in this part of Staffordshire, which supply Uttoxeter market with such vast quantities of butter and cheese. Sheep are also fed in the northern as well as in the southern part, in great numbers, but they are small, and their wool is coarse. They generally have black noses, and their wool is something finer in the south than in the north. Much of it is manufactured in this county in the cloathing trade and felting. Nor is the arable ground less fruitful than the pasture, for even the barren moor lands, when manured by the husbandmen with marle and lime mixed

mixed with turf-ashes, produce good oat and barley, the last not so plenty indeed, but as good as in the south, and as to the southern parts, and some adjacent parishes in the north, they produce all sorts of grain, as wheat, rye, barley, pulse, &c. In these parts they also sow hemp and flax, so that this shire, all thing considered, may be called, *Terra suis contenta bonis*, i.e. that can subsist of itself, without the help of any other country.

As to subterraneous productions, both the moor lands and wood lands yield lead, copper, iron, marble, alabaster, mill-stones, coal, salt, &c. Of this sort of lands consist the chase of Canock wood, and most of the warrens and parks of the nobility and gentry, of which last, before the late civil wars, there were near fifty. In the more fruitful parts of the county are found marles of several sorts, and colours, most of which are laid upon their lands with very great success; and of some they make very good bricks, especially of the reddish clay marle. Here are other useful earths, as brick earth, which burns blue, and is supposed to be of that sort of which the Romans made their urns; fullers earth, potters clay, particularly a sort used in the glassess at Amblecot, whereof are made the best in England, for which reason it is sold for seven pence a bushel, and sent as far as London, Bristol, &c. Slip, a reddish sort of earth, wherewith they paint divers vessels; yellow and red oakers, which are observed to lie chiefly in their best lands; and tobacco-pipe clay, of which the best sort is found in Monway field, between Wednesbury and Willingford.

It produces also valuable stones, and minerals of various sorts. As 1. The fire-stone for hearths of iron furnaces, ovens, &c. 2. Rocks of lime-stone. 3. Iron-stone, dug at Darlstone, Apedale, and many other places. The best sort of iron-stone,

A a a.

called

called Mush, is as big some times as the crown of a hat, and contains a pint of a cold sharp liquor, yet so pleasant to the taste, that the workmen are fond of it. This sort is found at Rushall; and the best sort of iron wares, as keys, &c. are made of it. 4. The blood-stone, or hæmatites, found in the brook Trent, which is very weighty, and if a little wet, will draw red lines like ruddle. 5. Copper ore, or stones dug out of Ceton-hill, in the parish of Wilton, where a mine was formerly worked by the Earl of Devonshire, and other gentlemen; but they soon left it off because copper could be had cheaper from Sweden. 6. Lead ore, dug in a yellowish stone with cawk and spar, in Townsfield, on the side of Lawton park. 7. Quarry stones, mill-stones and grind-stones of several colours. 8. Alabaster and good marble, of divers kinds, some of which exceed any brought from beyond sea; and there are whole mountains of it in the lordship of Grindon, at Yelpersley-tor, Powkehill, &c.

To supply the scarcity of wood, which is seldom used in this county for fuel, there is plenty of turf and peat, cannel-coal, peacock-coal, and pit-coal. The cannel coal, which has been formerly mentioned, is supposed to take its name from the British word *Canwill*, signifying a candle, because it gives so bright a flame, that in the dark it supplies the place of a candle. The peacock-coal which is dug upon Hartley-green, near Newcastle under Line, is softer than cannel coal, and they are not capable of being polished as that is. It is so called, because it has all the colours of a pea-cock's train, when turned towards the light; but it is better for the forge than the kitchen, which is supplied by the pit-coal dug about Wednesbury, Dudley and Sedgely, and is preferred by some to cannel-coal, for it burns into white ashes, leaving no such cinder

as

as the coal from Newcastle upon Tyne. Of this sort of coal there is such plenty in this county, that commonly there are twelve or fourteen colliers and twice as many out of work, within ten miles round, which afford from two thousand to five thousand tons a year; but it will not be serviceable in malting till it is charr'd: when it is so freed from all its unpleasant fumes, that it makes fit winter firing for a chamber. The coal thus prepared is called coak, and gives as good heat almost as charcoal. This pit-coal often takes fire in the pit, which Dr. *Plot* ascribes to the bitumen in the coal, which being put into a ferment by water, produceth fire, and so the pits take fire of themselves. We refer the curious for the rest of the natural history of this shire, to that author, who has treated of the subject very largely in his History of Staffordshire: as also to Mr. Ray, who says, that the mountainous part of this shire, called the moorlands, produces the same plants as the peak of Derbyshire.

This shire sends eight members to parliament, viz. two knights of the shire, two for the city of Litchfield, two for Stafford, the County Town, and two for Newcastle under Line.

In passing through the south part of this county, in the road from Birmingham to Bridgenorth, we enter it on the east side, by Smelthwick, on the left of which is

Hales Owen; a seat belonging to the late Lord Dudley.

Not far from it, about thirty miles from Shrewsbury, are the celebrated gardens of the late ingenious Poet, Mr. Shenstone. We cannot, like most modern travellers, pass with a galloping pen over the rural abode of such an original genius as Mr. Shenstone, without giving a particular description of

The

The LEASOWES.

This was a paternal estate, yet never 'possessed
such distinguished beauties, until Mr. Shenstone,
with much thought and labour, made it not only
a romantic but a delightful retreat.

It is situated about half a mile from Hales Owen,
in the bottom of a deep valley, finely shaded, where
is a kind of ruined wall, and a small gate within
an arch, inscribed, "*The Priory Gate.*" The house
is surrounded with a fine swelling lawn, at the
bottom of which is a small gate, through which is
a winding path, with a piece of water on the right,
rendered cool, gloomy, solemn, and sequestered by
the trees, which over-shade them on every side.
In a small root-house, which you pass in winding
down the valley, is a tablet with the following lines,
proper for such a romantic spot :

" Here in cool grot, and mossy cell,
We rural fays and faeries dwell :
Though rarely seen by mortal eye,
When the pale moon ascending high,
Darts thro' yon lines, her quiv'ring beams,
We frisk it near these chrystal streams.

" Her beams reflected from the wave,
Afford the light our revels crave ;
The turf, with daisies broider'd o'er,
Exceeds, we wot, the Parian floor ;
Nor yet for artful strains we call,
But listen to the water's fall.

" Wou'd you then taste our tranquil scene,
Be sure your bosoms be serene ;
Devoid of hate, devoid of strife,
Devoid of all that poisons life ;

And

And much it 'vails you in their place,
To graft the love of human race.

“ And tread with awe these favour'd bow'rs,
Nor wound the shrubs, nor bruise the flow'r's ;
So may your path with sweets abound,
So may your couch with rest be crown'd :
But harm betide the wayward swain
Who dares our hallow'd haunts profane !”

The priory gate admits you into a valley, on the right of which is a cascade ; on the left is a sloping grove of oaks, and the centre presents you with a pretty circular landscape, appearing through the trees, with Hales Owen steeple, and other distant objects. The seat beneath the ruined wall has the following lines of VIRGIL :

—————“ *Lucis habitamus opacis*
“ *Riparumque toros et prata recentia rivis*
“ *Incolimus.*”

Mr. Shenstone has placed a number of benches, as hints to the spectators not to avoid the beautiful regular picture before them. The stream runs along this pleasing valley, and on the right of a small seat, is a sloping grove ; on the left, the steeple of Hales Owen appears through an agreeable vista. The rivulet still murmurs on through this shady and sequestered valley, till it empties itself into a fine piece of water at the bottom. The water still continues its winding course to another valley ; here we must not forget to mention, that the water is invisibly connected in front of this scene with another piece of water, not the property of Mr. Shenstone, but was formerly part of the fish-ponds belonging to Hales abbey. From the back of this
scene

scene is a very beautiful view of villages and ground finely varied.

On the left of the priory, winding along into the valley, we enter a narrow glade by a serpentine walk, covered with oaks and beeches; on the back of a fine canopy of spreading oak is this inscription:

“Huc ades O Melibœ! caper tibi Salvus et hædi;
“Et si quid cessare potes, requiesce sub umbra.”

Before it is a small lawn, encompassed with hills and embellished with a cast of the piping Faunus; amid trees and shrubs on a slope upon the left; and on the right an urn thus inscribed:

“INGENIO ET AMICITIAE
“GULIELMI SOMERVILLE.”

And on the opposite side,

“G. S. POSUIT,
“Debita spargens lachrima Favillam
“Vatis amici.”

The scene is enclosed on all sides by trees, the middle only has an opening, where the lawn continues, and winds out of sight.

Another inexpressible scene is, that of an irregular and romantic fall of water, one hundred and fifty yards in continuity; you have a beautiful view of this from a large root-house, inscribed, To the Right Hon. the Earl of Stamford, who was present at the opening of the cascade before mentioned. This scene is inimitably beautiful, and admirable beyond description.

In a natural bower, to which you pass through a kind of thicket, are the following words.

To

"To Mr. DODSLEY.

"Come then, my friend, thy Sylvan taste display;
Come hear thy Faunus tune his rustic lay.
Ah! rather come, and in these dells disown
The care of other strains, and tune thine own."

Above this is a bank with the statue of the Piping Faun, and delightful scenes on every side.

Having entered a perfect dome, or circular temple, of magnificent beeches, in the centre of which it was intended to place an antique altar, or a statue of Pan, we serpentine through an open grove, where the path leads by an easy ascent to a small bench, with this motto;

"Me gelidum nemus
Nympharumque leves cum satyris chori,
"Secernant populo."

HOR.

Which alludes to the retired situation of the grove. After having been conducted through some fine paths, opening to beautiful views, and picturesque landscapes, we ascend to a small bench, where the circumjacent country begins to open; in particular a glass house appears between two large clumps of trees, at about the distance of four miles: the glass-houses in this country not ill resembling a distant pyramid. Ascending to the next seat, which is in the Gothic form, the scene grows more and more extended, woods and lawns, hills and vallies, agreeably intermingled. On the back of this seat is the following inscription, which the author told Mr. Dodsley, "he chose to fix here to support what he thought some want of life in this part of the farm, and to keep up the spectators attention till he came to scale the hill beyond."

"Shepherd

" Shepherd would'st thou here obtain
Pleasure unalloy'd with pain?
Joy that suits the rural sphere?
Gentle shepherd lend an ear.

" Learn to relish calm delight,
Verdant vales and fountains bright;
Trees that nod on sloping hills,
Caves that echo tinkling rills.

" If thou can'st no charm disclose
In the simple bud that blows,
Go, forsake thy plain and fold,
Join the crowd and toil for gold.

" Tranquil pleasures never cloy;
Banish each tumultuous joy;
All but love,— for love inspires
Fonder wishes, warmer fires.

" Love and all its joys be thine —
Yet e'er thou the reins resign,
Hear what reason seems to say,
Hear attentive and obey.

" Crimson leaves the rose adorn,
But beneath 'em lurks a thorn;
Fair and flow'ry is the brake,
Yet it hides the vengeful snake.

" Think not she, whose empty pride
Dares the fleecy garb deride,
Think not she, who light, and vain;
Scorns the sheep, can love the swain.

" Artless deed, and simple dress,
Mark the chosen shepherds;
Thoughts by decency controul'd
Well conceiv'd, and freely told.

" Sense

" Sense that shuns each conscious air, O
Wit that falls e're well aware;
Generous pity, prone to sigh
If her kid or lambkin die.

" Let not lucre, let not pride
Draw thee from such charms aside;
Have not those their proper sphere
Gentler passions triumph here.

" See, to sweeten thy repose,
The blossom buds, the fountain flows;
Lo! to crown thy healthful board,
All that milk and fruits afford.

" Seek no more, the rest is vain;
Pleasure ending soon in pain;
Anguish lightly gilded o'er;
Close thy wish, and seek no more."

At the summit of a circular hill, to which you pass through a wicket, is an octagonal seat, the bank of which is so contrived as to form a table, or pedestal, for a bowl, or goblet, thus inscribed, "To all friends round the Wrekin," intimating, Mr. Shenstone's commemoration of his country friends, as this hill divides Shropshire from the county, and gives a noble and striking view of the country around, and the Wrekin at the distance of thirty miles in the front.

Quitting this delightful spot, we wind through a small thicket, and soon enter a cavity in a hill, filled with trees, in the centre of which is a seat, from whence is discovered, gleaming across the trees, a considerable length of the serpentine stream, running under a slight rustic bridge to the right, hence we ascend a Gothic alcove, on the back of which is the following inscription :

B b b

" O you

" O you that bathe in courtly blyffe,
Or toil in fortune's giddy spheare;
Do not too rashly deem amysse
Of him that bydes contented here.

" Nor yet disleigne the russet foale
Which o'er each carelesse lymbe he flyngs;
Nor yet deryde the beechen bowle,
In whyche he quaffs the lympid springs.

" Forgive him, if at eve or dawne,
Devoide of worldlye care, he stray;
Or all beside some flowerye lawne
He waste his inoffensive daye.

" So may he pardonne fraud and striffe,
If such in courtlye haunt he see;
For faults there beene in busye life,
From whyche these peaceful glennes are free."

Below this alcove is a large sloping lawn, finely bounded, crossed by the serpentine water before mentioned, and interspersed with single, or clumps of oaks, at agreeable distances; further on the scene is finely varied, and affords another wild and pleasing landscape; at the head of another lawn is a seat under a spreading beech, with this inscription.

" Hoc erat in volis: modus agri non ita magnus;
Hortus ubi, et tecto vicinus jugis aquæ fons,
Et paulum Sylvæ super his foret Auctius, atque
Dii melius fecere."

In the centre of the hanging lawn before you is discovered the house, half hid with trees and bushes; a prospect of Lord Stamford's grounds; clec hills, woods

woods, waters, &c. intermixed with smooth green slopes, and scenes of cultivation.

Returning again into the lawn at bottom, from another seat is a view of the water, Clent-hill, and the town and spire of Hales, which is again seen from the Lovers walk, which is overspread with a pleasing gloom. On the back of a bench called, the Affignation Seat, is this inscription:

“ Nerine Galatea ! thymo mihi dulcior Hyblæ,

“ Candidior Cygnis, hederæ formosior Alba ;

“ Cum primum pasti repetent præsepia tauri,

“ Si qua tui Corydonis habet te cura, venito.

This scene, which is rendered in every part soft and pensive by the bubbling rill, which rolls over pebbles, or falls down in small cascades, is terminated with an ornamented urn, inscribed to Miss Dolman, a beautiful and amiable relation of Mr. Shenstone's, who died of the small-pox, about twenty-one years of age.

As you ascend the serpentine walk which leads to the wood, you meet with several seats with inscriptions on them, alluding to the rural, wild and solitary prospects before you. The lofty Gothic seat in the middle of an avenue in this hanging wood, has as fine a view as the eye can desire, of slopes, hills, and variegated ground, and the whole landscape enriched with a view of Hales Owen, the late Lord Dudley's house, and a large wood of the late Lord Lyttleton's. It is impossible to give an adequate description of this scene, which the sight alone cannot sufficiently admire.

The rustic building to which we next proceed, is a slight and unexpensive structure, of rough unhewn stone, commonly called here the Temple of Pan ; having a trophy of Tibia and Syrinx ; and this inscription over the entrance.

“ Pan

"Pan primus calamos cera conjungere plures
 "Edocuit; Pan curat Oves, oviumque magistros."

From this temple we mount again to the right, and enter upon a light some high natural terrace, which has a greater effect from the dark umbrageous walk by which we ascend to it. From hence the eye is thrown over all the scenes we have seen before, together with many fine additional ones, and all beheld from a declivity that approaches as near a precipice as is agreeable. In the middle is a seat with this inscription, "DIVINI GLORIA RURIS!"

Returning through the wood to another seat, which has partly the same scene, with the addition of that remarkable clump of trees, called Frankly Beeches, adjoining to the old family seat of the Lyttletons, and from whence the present Lord Lyttleton derives his title. In our descent we meet with a seat inscribed to this nobleman, it is inclosed with handsome pales, backed with firs; and presents a beautiful view up a valley, contracted gradually, and ending in a group of most magnificent oaks beeches, cascades, &c.

Winding still downwards, we come to a small seat, where one of the offices of the house, and a view of a cottage on very high ground, are seen over the tops of the trees of the grove, in the adjacent valley, giving an agreeable instance of the abrupt inequality of ground in this romantic well variegated country. The next seat shews another face of the same valley, the water gliding calmly along betwixt two seeming groves, without any cascades. The scene very significantly alluded to by the motto:

"Furo mihi, et rigui placeant in vallibus amnes,
 "Flumina amem, Silvaſque inglorius!"

We

We descend now to a beautiful gloomy scene, called Virgil's grove, where on the entrance we pass by a small obelisk on the right, with an inscription to his memory.

The first seat in this grove is inscribed,

CELEBERRIMO PORTAE

JACOBO THOMSON

PROPE FONTES ILLI NON FASTIDITOS

G. S.

SEDEM HANC ORNAVIT.

“ Quæ tibi, quæ tali reddam pro carmine dona ?
 “ Nam neque metantum venientis sibilus austri,
 “ Nec percussa juvant fluctu tam litora, nec quæ
 “ Saxolas inter decurrunt flumina Valles.

This seat is placed upon a steep edge of the valley, which presents several desirable views. Indeed this grove gives every one that beholds it a thorough sense of satisfaction ; “ and were one to chuse, says Mr. Doddsley, any one particular spot of this perfectly Arcadian farm, it should, perhaps, be this.” We now proceed to a seat at the bottom of a large root, on the side of a slope, with this inscription :

“ O let me haunt this peaceful shade,
 Nor let ambition e'er invade
 The tenants of this leafy bower,
 That shun her paths, and slight her pow'r.

“ Hither the peaceful Halcyon flies,
 From social meads and open skies ;
 Pleas'd by this rill her course to steer,
 And hide her sapphire plumage here,

“ The trout, bedropt with crimson stains,
 Forsakes the river's proud domains ;

Forsakes

Forfakes the sun's unwelcome gleam,
To lurk within this humble stream.

“ And sure I hear the Naiad say,
Flow, flow my stream, this devious way :
Tho' lovely soft thy murmurs are,
Thy waters lovely, cool and fair.

“ Flow, gentle stream, nor let the vain
Thy small unsully'd stores disdain ;
Nor let the pensive sage repine,
Whose latent course resembles thine.

The view from it is a calm tranquil scene of water, gliding through the sloping ground, with a sketch through the trees of the small pond below. Farther on we lose all sight of the water, and only hear the noise. We now turn all on a sudden upon the high cascade, the scene around is quite a grotto of native stone running up it, roots of trees overhanging it, and the whole shaded over head. However we first approach upon the left a chalybeate spring, with an iron bowl chained to it, and this inscription upon a stone,

FONS PERRUGINEUS
DIVAE QUAE SECESSU ISTO FRUI CONCEDIT,

Then turning to the right, we find a stone seat, with this inscription, which Mr. Shenstone termed, the definition of a grotto :

INTUS AQUAE DULCIS, VIVOQUE SEDILLA SAXO;
NYMPHARUM DOMUS.

Crossing the head of the cascade, we come to a seat, under a shady oak ; soon after we enter the shrubbery, which half surrounds the house, where
we

we find two seats thus inscribed to two of his friends :

AMICITIAE & MERRITIS

RICHARDI GRAVES

IPSAE TE, TITYRE PINUS

IPSI TE FONTES, IPSA HAEC ARBUSTA VOCABANT.

The other inscription is on the seat a little further on.

AMICITIAE & MERITIS

RICHARDI JAGO.

From this last is an opening down the valley, over a large sliding lawn, well edged with oaks, to a piece of water crossed by a considerable bridge in the flat, the steeple of Hales, a village amidst trees, making, on the whole, a very pleasing picture. Thus winding through flowering shrubs, besides a managerie for doves, we are conducted to the stables. But let it not be forgot, that on the entrance into this shruberry, the first object that strikes us is a Venus de Medicis, beside a bason of gold fish, incompassed round with shrubs, and illustrated with the following inscription :

“ Semi educta VENUS.”

“ To Venus, Venus, here retir’d,

My sober vows I pay,

Not her on Paphian plains admir’d,

The bold, the pert, the gay.

“ Not her, whose amorous leer prevail’d

To bribe the Phrygian boy ;

Not her, who clad in armour, fail’d

To save disastrous Troy.

“ Fresh

" Fresh rising from the foamy tide,
 She ev'ry bosom warms ;
 While half withdrawn, she seems to hide,
 And half reveals her charms.

" Learn hence ye boastful sons of taste,
 Who plan the rural shade ;
 Learn hence to shun the vicious waste,
 Of Pomp, at large display'd.

" Let sweet concealment's magic art
 Your mazy bounds invest ;
 And while the sight unveils a part,
 Let fancy paint the rest.

" Let coy reserve with cost unite
 To grace your wood and field :
 Nor ray obtrusive pall the light
 In aught you paint or build.

" And far be driven the sumptuous glare
 Of gold, from British groves ;
 And far the meretricious air
 Of China's vain alcoves.

" 'Tis bashful beauty ever twines
 The most coercive chain ;
 'Tis she, that sovereign rule declines,
 Who best deserves to reign.

The town of *Dudley*, an hundred and twenty miles from *London*, although surrounded by the county of *Staffordshire* on every side, yet is in the county of *Worcestershire* : near it, upon a high mountain, is the famous ancient

Castle of Dudley. It was erected in the year 700, by *Dodo*, a Saxon, and was formerly very large. It has at present a high tower upon it, and the part which

which is not in ruins, is converted into a noble seat. From it is a most extensive prospect over five shires, and into part of Wales. In the hall of this castle is a table, all of one intire plank, which, before it was fitted up there, was twenty-five yards long, and one yard in breadth; but being too long for the hall, seven yards and nine inches of it were taken off, and made a table for the hall of a neighbouring gentleman. The castle is in Staffordshire.

Upon Ashwood heath, in the Parish of King's Swinford, near Dudley, is a large intrenchment, which Dr. Plot thinks to be Roman.

Another road on the right leads from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, on the left of which is

Walsall, situated on a hill, an hundred and sixteen miles and an half from London. It is governed by a mayor. Has several iron mines near it, where-with the townsmen make spurs, bridle-bits, stirrups, buckles, &c. Dr. Plot says, the best sort of iron-stone, called *Mush*, is dug in these mines, which contains a sweet cool liquor the workmen are fond of; and that every year, on the eve of Epiphany, a dole of one penny is distributed to all persons then residing in the town, and all the villages there-to belonging, and to all strangers that then happen to be there. Here are several gentlemens seats in this neighbourhood. Near this town is

Wednesfield, where King Edward I. obtained a signal victory over the Danes, when two of their Kings were killed, and both the Danish and Saxon nobles therein slain were buried in the fields here-about, called North and South Lows.

In this hamlet, by virtue of an act of parliament, a new chapel was erected for the better convenience of the inhabitants attending divine service, the roads between here and Wolyerhampton being very deep and dirty in the winter season.

Wednesbury, situated near *Darlaston*, was anciently fortified by *Adelfida*, governess of the *Mercians*, and was at the conquest the ancient demesne of the crown. It is famous for its producing great quantity of excellent pit-coal, it burning away with a sweet bright flame, into white ashes; and here is that sort of iron ore, called *Blond metal*, which is used to make nails and horse-shoes, and all sorts of heavy tools, as hammers, axes, &c. There are vessels of divers sorts made here, which are painted with a reddish sort of earth, dug hereabouts, which they call *Slip*.

On the top of a hill is a place called

Berry Bank, at *Darlaston*, where are the ruins of a large castle which according to tradition, was anciently the seat of the Mercian King *Ulfere*, who murdered his sons for embracing Christianity.

Wolverhampton, an hundred and twenty-four miles from London; takes its name from *Vulfruna*, a pious woman, sister to King *Edgar*, and *Hampton*, its former name: from hence it was called *Vulfruna's Hampton*, and by corruption *Wolverhampton*. This lady built a monastery here. This town is populous, well built and healthy, notwithstanding the adjacent iron mines; this is attributed to its being situated on a high hill. The inhabitants are particularly famous for their ingenuity in lock-making; and it is said a very fine lock was made here, and sold for twenty pounds, which had a set of chimes in it that would go at what hour the owner pleased. Their manufacture in brass is also carried on to great perfection. Some of the iron-work is made in the town, but the chief is made by several farmers in its neighbourhood, who, when they are not employed in their fields, work as smiths at their forges; and bring their work to market, where it is bought up by the tradesmen, and exported all over

over Europe. But it is to be observed this town does not increase in buildings like Birmingham, the land, for the most part, being the property of the church, and consequently the tenure not sufficient to encourage the people to lay out their money upon it. The church, which is collegiate, is said to be founded by the above lady, in 996, and granted by Edward VI. together with seven prebends belonging to it, to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in the year 1553. In it are several old monuments, and a brass statue of Sir Richard Leveson, who engaged the Spaniards, under Sir Francis Drake. The pulpit is old, and of stone: and in the church-yard is a very old stone cross.

A new chapel is built in this town, according to an act passed in the year 1755, the old church and church-yard being found too small and inconvenient for such a number of inhabitants.

Northwest of Woolverhampton, is

Wrottesley, which has belonged to the family of the Wrottesley or Wriothesly's, almost ever since the conquest, who have a house and park here: near which is a greyish sort of clay, of which tobacco-pipes are made at Armitage and Litchfield. In the park are still to be seen the ruins of some old British or Danish city, as supposed by *Camden*, because of the several partitions, like streets, running divers ways, within the limits of it, which is three or four miles in compass. Stones of vast bigness have been found here, one of which made an hundred loads; another, after ten loads were hewn off of it, required thirty-six yoke of oxen to draw it, and made so great a cistern at a malt-house here, as to wet thirty-seven strikes of barley at a time.

At *Fenfare*, in this neighbourhood, are the remains of an old fortification, and at Abbot's castle

or Apewood castle, near Seafdon, on the edge of Shropshire, is another fortification, supposed to have been British: it stands on a lofty round promontory, with a steep ridge, for half a mile together, having hollows cut in the ground, over which, it is thought, they pitched their tents.

At *Weston*, on the borders of Shropshire, near Brewood, are Brine Pits, the salt, which is made by a mineral that the water passes through, is reckoned as good for all uses as any in England. North of this place is

Penkridge, an hundred and twenty-six miles from London; it is situated on the river Penk, across which it has a stone bridge. This town was formerly the Pennocrinium of the Romans. A monastery was formerly founded here, at present it is famous for its horse fair, esteemed as great as any in England. Numbers of gentlemen, with their grooms, and others, attend to purchase both saddle and draught horses, many of which are brought hither from Yorkshire, the Bishopric of Durham, and all the horse-breeding counties in England.

Entering this county again at Swinsenhall, by another road on the east end, which is the main road to Chester, the first place of any note we meet with, is

Litchfield, an hundred and seventeen miles from London. It is a fine, neat, well-built, and pretty large city. It rose from the ruins of the Roman *Etracetum*, a mile off, now called *Chesterfield wall*, from some reliques of its fortifications. It was incorporated by Edward VI. under the name of bailiffs and burghesses, and is a town and county, governed by two bailiffs, twenty-four burghesses, a recorder, and other officers.

The city is divided by a sluggish slough, or water, which runs through it, into two parts, that which stands

stands on the south side of the rivulet, is called the city; and the other, the close. The last has this name because it is inclosed with a wall, and a good deep dry trench on all sides, except towards the city, where it is defended by a great lake, or marsh, formed by the above mentioned rivulet.

It was erected into a Bishop's See in the year 606, by Oswy, King of Northumberland, and was once archiepiscopal, with jurisdiction over the Mercians and East Angles. Tradition says, that one St. Chad was Bishop here formerly, and lived a retired life, in a little hovel, or cell, by the spring near Slow church. Be that as it may, the present pastor of the church, has a fine palace in the close, and the residentiaries follow his *laudable* example in indulging every method in their power to mortify the flesh.

The cathedral which stands in the close, is esteemed one of the compleatest buildings in this kingdom, for elegance and order, we shall therefore be a little particular in our description of this ancient structure. It is situated in the close, and was rebuilt by Bishop Roger de Clinton, in 1148: the religious warriors in the civil wars greatly damaged it, destroyed the imagery and carved work in the front, and also entirely ruined all the ornaments of the inside, with the monuments, brass inscriptions, &c. Though it was fiercely attacked, it still held out for a long time, in favour of Charles I. After the restoration, Charles II. greatly repaired it, which, with the bounty of Bishop Hackett, and several other benefactors, is now a noble and admirable edifice. There are indeed some few strictures which the nice critic may remark, in the towers being too low for their breadth, and have a very heavy appearance without windows, and the irregularity of the circular stair-cases, &c. yet all agree

agree that the spires are carried up in an exceeding high taste, and finished with great judgment. The middle tower and spire of this church, are higher than those at the west end, and are equally beautiful. An imitation of this spire was designed to be erected in the middle of Westminster abbey.

The dimensions of it on the inside are, four hundred and fifty feet in length, of which the choir is one hundred and ten; and the breadth of it in the broadest part is eighty. Over the portico, or front, are twenty-six statues of the kings of Judah, in a row, as big as the life; the inside is likewise decorated with several statues, and the choir is in great part paved with alabaster and cannel coal; in imitation of black and white marble: behind it is a chapel. The prebendary stalls, which are by some thought to be the best of the kind in the kingdom, are indeed of excellent workmanship, and were re-erected most of them at the charge of the country gentlemen, each stall bearing the arms of the benefactor who gave it. Over the middle door is the great window, which is very large, and its pediment finely adorned, with a large cross on the top of it.

Here is said to have been a shrine for St. Chad, or St. Cedda, which cost two hundred thousand pounds. This story is related in the monasticon, but we look upon it as fabulous; since such a gift at that time, must be equal to two millions of our money.

Besides the cathedral, there are three other churches, of which St. Michael's has so large a church-yard, as scarce to be paralleled in England; for it contains six or seven acres of ground.

Passing through *Rugely*, which is a handsome well built town, situated on the river Trent, we turn off at Great Haywood.

Near

Near Litchfield, is

Beaufort, a famous old seat, said to be built by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. The name indeed intimates it to be of the Norman, or French original: this seat is at present in the possession of the noble family of Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, who bears the title of Baron of Beaufort. The house, which is situated in a fine park, is very ancient; but exceedingly pleasant. In the park is a famous piece of antiquity, viz. a large camp, or fortification, surrounded with a double trench, very large and deep.

Stafford, the County Town, and the most considerable except Litchfield, is situated an hundred and thirty-five miles from London, on the river *Sow*, over which it has a bridge. It is said to have been founded by the widow of Etheldred, Earl of Mercia, whomade it the chief town of the shire. William the Conqueror built a castle here, now demolished, and is supposed to have had formerly walls round it. King John made it a corporation, and Edward the sixth confirmed and enlarged its charter.

This town is governed by a mayor, recorder, and other officers. It consists of two parishes, and is in general well built and paved. The buildings of stone and slate are some of them very modish and handsome: the old custom of Borough-English, which has been already mentioned in this work, is still kept up here. Besides a nunnery, here was a priory also, founded by Ralph, Lord Stafford, in the reign of Edward III.

The ruins of the ancient castle are to be seen upon a hill, about a mile and a half out of the town, from whence is a most pleasing prospect of the town and adjacent country.

About seven miles north-west of Stafford, is

Eccleshall

Eccleshall, a pretty market town, noted for pedlary wares; and near it the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry has a seat, called *Eccleshall Castle*.

The main road from Litchfield to Chester, after having left Rugeley, passes through *Stone*; in the way to which is *Sbirywich*, where is a large Saltwell, and a fine country.

Stone is situated on the Trent, an hundred and forty miles from London. It is said to have taken its name from stones anciently heaped up here, according to the custom of the Saxons, to preserve the memory of the murder committed by Ulfere, King of Mercia, on his two sons, for embracing Christianity. This King repented afterwards, and became a Christian, he destroyed all the heathen temples in his kingdom, and converted them into Christian churches and monasteries. History also adds, that Ermenhild, their mother, turned the heap of stones into a tomb for their bodies, over which she erected a nunnery, which was greatly enlarged by the family of Stafford; one of whom also founded a priory. This town is noted for its commodious inns, and for the country round it, which affords delightful views of the noble river Trent.

A small distance from Stafford, is

Ingestre, where the late Walter Chetwynd, Esq. built, or rather rebuilt, a very fine church, at his own charge. Here is a fine seat, situated in a noble park, with delightful gardens, which the late Lord Viscount Chetwynd spared no expence to make a compact and beautiful spot.

A little south of this between Shutburrow and Haywood, is an exceeding long horse-bridge, having about forty arches. This bridge is thrown across a large standing water, which in winter, and after great rains, is impassible.

A little above this is

Shutburrow

Shutburrow Manor, the seat of Thomas Anson, Esq, elder brother of the late Lord Anson. The house and gardens are situated on the banks of the river Trent. Some ruins erected with large stones which the present possessor found on the spot, have a very good effect.

East of Litchfield, is

Tamworth, an hundred and thirteen miles from London. It is situated on the Tame, which river running through it, divides it into two parts, one whereof is in this county, and the other in Warwickshire. It is the oldest town hereabouts; it was the royal seat of the Mercian Kings. A large trench is still remaining, called

The *King's Dyke*, where bones of men and horses, and spear-heads have been dug up. It was destroyed by the Danes, and rebuilt by Queen Ethelfleda, who added a strong tower to it, which is the present castle. Queen Elizabeth incorporated it, by the name of the two Bails, twenty-four Burghesses, and other officers. The church here is collegiate, and stands where once was a nunnery. Here is a grammar-school founded by Queen Elizabeth, and a fine charity of that rich bookseller, Mr. Guy, who founded and endowed the noble hospital in Southwark before-mentioned. The town stands exceedingly pleasant, is eminent for good ale and good company of the middle sort.

From Rugely a road branches off northerly to *Bromley Pagets*, one hundred and twenty-nine miles from London; it was anciently called Abbot's Bromley, as belonging to the Abbot of that name, and afterwards Paget's, it having been given to Lord Paget at the dissolution of the monasteries. Dr. Plot relates a whimsical sport, formerly used here, on New Year's day and Twelfth day; it was called the *hobby-horse dance*, from the person who rode upon the image of a horse made of thin boards,

with a bow and arrow in his hands, with which he made a snapping noise as he drew it to and fro, keeping time with the music, while six other men danced the hay, and other country dances, with as many rein-deers heads on their shoulders, half white and half red. To this hobby-horse belonged a pot, which the Reeves of the town kept, and filled with cakes and ale, to which all the spectators gave a penny for themselves and families, wherewith they paid for the cakes and ale, and with the rest maintained their poor, and repaired their church.

In Sir Walter Bagot's park was a surprizing large Elm, called the Welch Elm, which was felled in 1674, and deserves notice.

Two men were five days in felling it.

It measured forty yards in length when felled.

The stool was fifteen yards two feet over.

Fourteen load were broken in the fell,

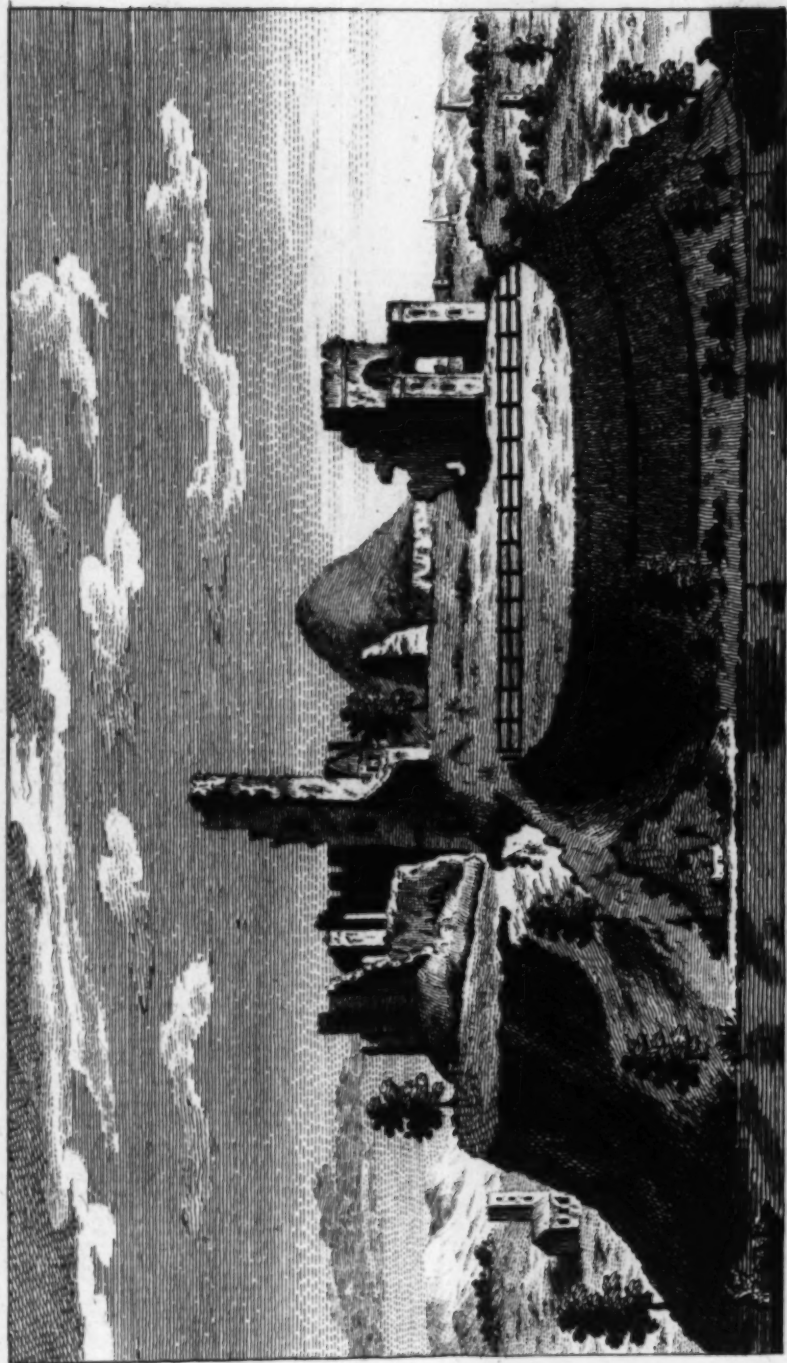
Forty-one load in the top.

There were made out of it eighty pair of naves, and eight thousand six hundred and sixty feet of boards and planks.

It cost ten pounds seventeen shillings sawing.

The whole substance was conceived to be ninety-seven tons.

To the east of Bromley Paget's, on the skirts of Derbyshire, is a small town called *Tutbury*, or *Stutebury*; it stands near the Dove, before it falls into the Trent. Henry de Ferrars, a Norman, built a castle here, with a little monastery; it was very large, and stood on an alabaster hill, which was demolished by Henry III. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, afterwards built the Gate-house, walled in on all sides but one, where the hill is so steep, that it needs no fortification, yet they enclosed it with a strong pale; the prospect from hence is beautiful and extensive, eastward over the Dove and
Trent



Tutbury Castle Staffordshire.



Trent as far as Nottingham; on the south-east towards Burton, &c. and on the south and south-east are all wood-lands, in which are many parks, most of which belong to the Castle and Honour of Tutbury, to which great part of the inhabitants of the adjacent country are homagers, and of which they hold their estates.

A few miles southward stands *Burton upon Trent*. This town is famous for its fine ale, and its noble bridge over the river Trent, consisting of thirty-six arches, and of the length of five hundred and three yards, said to have been built by William de Waid, in the time of King Henry III. whose arms are still to be seen in the church of free-stone, cut and squared.

The decayed abbey was anciently a very rich one, founded for the Benedictines, anno 1004, and its abbot being mitred, sat in parliament. In it was buried Modwena, a virgin of eminent sanctity, who gave name to a well in the parish, whose water is said to cure several diseases.

From Rugely to *Uttoxeter*, is ten miles. It is likewise termed *Uulcester* and *Tocester*. It stands on a gentle eminence, west of the river Dove, over which it has a stone bridge, that leads to Derbyshire. It is noted for its fine meadows and cattle. It has a great market for sheep, swine, butter, &c. the buildings are but ordinary, though the town is large. It is surrounded with iron forges.

North-west of *Uttoxeter*, is *Newcastle under Line*. This town stands on a branch of the Trent, one hundred and forty-eight miles and an half from London, and has several large, broad, and well-paved streets, and a handsome market-place. It had a castle, now in ruins, and takes it's name from an older, which stood two miles off, at *Chester-ton under Line*. It was incorporated by King Henry I. and again by Queen Elizabeth and King Charles II.

Charles II. and is governed by a Mayor, two Justices, two Bailiffs, and twenty-four Common-council. The castle, of which there is little to be seen now, was built in the reign of Henry III. who settled both that and the manor on his son Edmund, Earl of Lancaster; and from him they descended to King Henry IV. The town is partly surrounded with coal-pits, particularly one at Hamley-green, where is a sort of coal, called peacock coal, from its variety of gay lively colours. It is softer than the cannel coal, and is cut out in slices; but consumes so fast, that it is reckoned only fit for forges. An excellent device is here spoken off, to have been used here, for the taming of a shrew, by putting a bridle into the scold's mouth, which quite deprives her of speech for the time, and leading her about the town to shame her, till she promises amendment.

Here are great quantities of stone-ware made near this town, especially at Cobridge and Burstem, where is a manufactory for earthen ware, &c. which is exported to a great amount.

About three miles south-east of this place, is

Trentbam, so called from the river Trent, which rises there. The Earl Gower has a noble seat here, which is extremely handsome: the house is modern, and built on the plan of the Queen's palace, in St. James's park; but the entrance to the house is rendered very inconvenient, by the church being so close to it, and the church and church-yard in front.

The park is very beautiful, with two noble pieces of water in it; and the hills, which rise immediately from the water, are finely covered with wood, which has a fine effect on the traveller, as he passes the road to Newcastle. It is walled round, and the high ground in it gives an extensive view of the surrounding country.

About

About fourteen miles from Newcastle, is *Cheekley*, where are three stones, with little images cut upon two of them, they are erected spire wise in the church-yard, they are very remarkable, but it is not known for certainty, by whom, or on what account, they were set up. The inhabitants have a tradition, that there was an engagement between two armies in a field, called *Naked Field*, near the place, one with weapons and one without; that three Bishops were killed in one of them, for whom these three stones are memorials; and that they were erected by the Danes,

Weaver-bill, which is to the east of Newcastle, is a long range of hills, and *Wotton under Weaver-bill*, a village situate in a valley, is so much out of the sun-shine, that this rhyme is common with the neighbours,

“ *Wotton under Weaver*
Where God comes never.”

Here is a high paved way, which Dr. Plot thinks was a Roman *Vie vicinalis*, or bye way, from one town to another.

In the parish of Wotton, near here, is

Eaton-hill, where copper ore is dug. Here is a rock, in which there is a remarkable hollow, called *Hobhurst Cave*, near the mill where the river *Manyfold* falls into the ground.

Adjoining to this parish, is that of

Grindon, where are mountains of *Ranu* marble, i. e. of a hard white, shining grit, striped red, which receives so good a polish, that it is fit for chimney-pieces, monuments, &c.

Between *Blue-hill* and *Clusterberry edge*, in the parish of *Leek*, is a salt stream which tinges the stone

stone and earth, all along, as it runs, of a rusty colour, and dyes the button-moulds of the poor people, who are employed in making of buttons, black, especially if made of oak; and with a little infusion of galls, turns as black as ink, which sufficiently evinces its strong vitriolic quality.

The other places of less note in this county are, *Aqualate Meer*, a large piete of water, which is remarkable for its great extent, being one thousand eight hundred and forty yards in length, and six hundred and seventy-two yards in breadth. It is particularly famous for its great plenty and largeness of its fish, especially jacks and carps, and likewise for floating islands which move upon the water.

On the east side of this meer, and west of Stafford, is

Moreton, which took its name from a family of Moretons it belonged to. Here is a work which is supposed to have been cast up by the Romans, who had an action in this neighbourhood.

Okeover, situated on the river Dove, near Blore, has a park, near which, about a quarter of a mile south of the church, is a deep intrenchment, called the Hallsteds, supposed to be a castellated mansion of the Cockaynes, in the Barons wars; but the lows or burrows, in Arbour close, two or three bow shots north-west of the church, are certainly Roman, and not made of earth, or gravel, but of stones. In the orchard and gardens belonging to the manor house, there were growing, in the year 1680, sixty different sorts of apples, twenty sorts of pears, sixteen sorts of cherries, thirty-five sorts of apricots and plumbs, and seven sorts of nectarines and peaches.

Perry Wood, on the edge of this county, not far from Birmingham, is noted for Mr. Eachard's Fable,

Fable, of the conference and compact there between Oliver Cromwell and the Devil.

Sturton and *Sturton Castle*, on the river Stour, three miles north-west of Stourbridge, is noted for Cardinal Pole having been born in the castle here: this prelate refused the triple crown.

About *Swinerton*, is a great variety of marl in the soil, which is esteemed excellent manure; and this place, with the little country between it and Trentham, being most free from waters, mines and woods, is reckoned the healthiest part of the county.

On the west side of the river, between *Upper* and *Lower Tean*, is an unaccountable spring, called *the Well in the Wall*, which, according to the report of Mr. *Wood*, whose seat was here, rises under a rock, and throws out all the year round, except in July and August, small bones of different sorts, like those of sparrows and chickens.

Waterfall, on the south side of Grindon, is so called, because the river Hampse, or Hans, after a course of seven or eight miles from its spring, falls into the ground, and rises not again, till it meets with the river Manifold, about half a mile off.

CONCLUSION OF OXFORD CIRCUIT.

End of the Second Volume.

Table of the conference and compact there be-
tween Oliver Cromwell and the Devil.
Sturton and Sturton Castle, on the river Stour,
three miles north-west of Stourbridge, is noted for
Cardinal Pole having been born in the castle here:
this tradition is the only one.

About Sturton, is a great variety of man in
the soil, which is a
and this place, which is
and Trentham, being in water, mines
and woods, is rich in
country.



On the well side of the river, between Uppar and
Lutter, is an unaccountable spring, called the
Well in the Wood, which, according to the report of
Mr. Wood, whose name was here, then under a rock,
and throws out all the year round, except in July
and August, small bones of different kinds, like those
of horses and other animals.

Waterfall, on the south side of Grafton, is so
called, because the river falls, or runs, after a
course of seven or eight miles, down a steep hill
into the ground, and this not again, till it meets
with the river Mersey, about half a mile off.

CONCLUSION OF OXFORD CIRCUIT.

End of the Grand Volume.

